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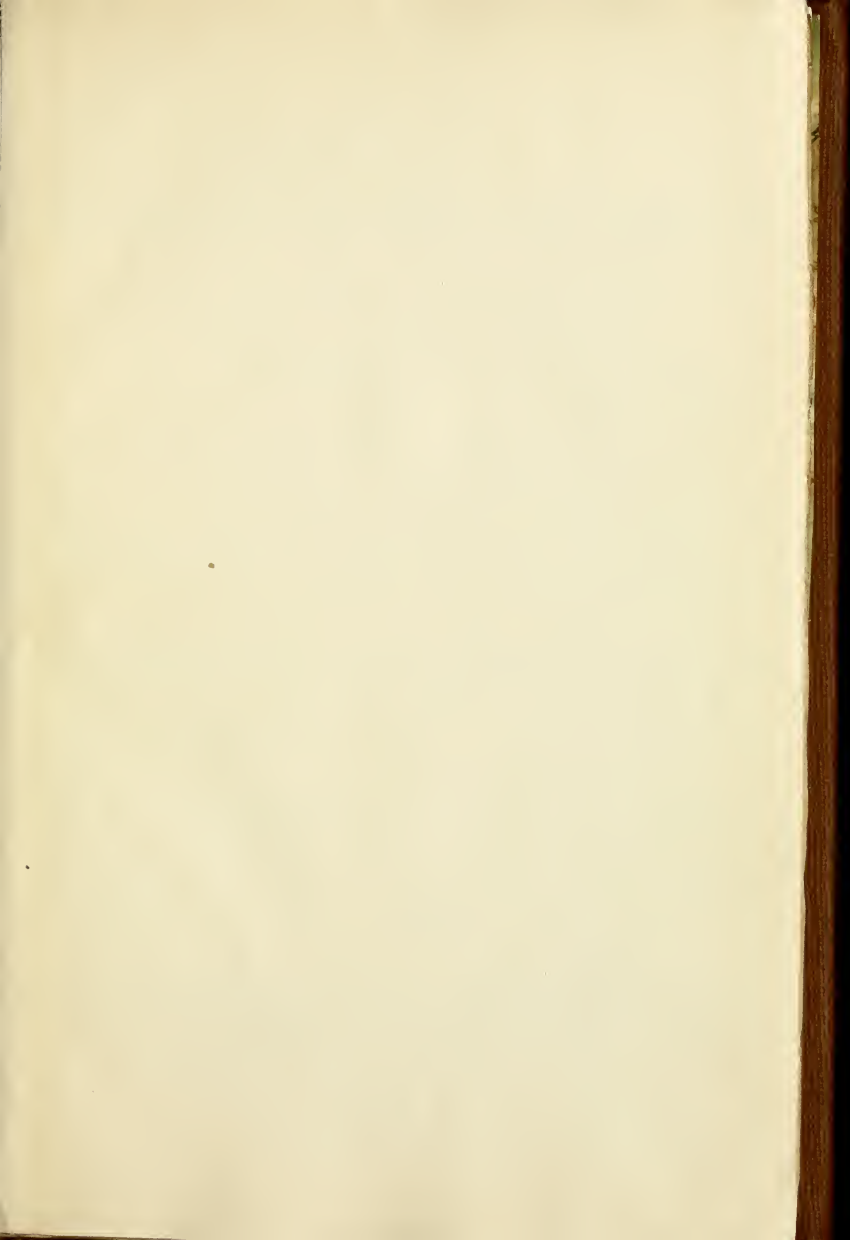


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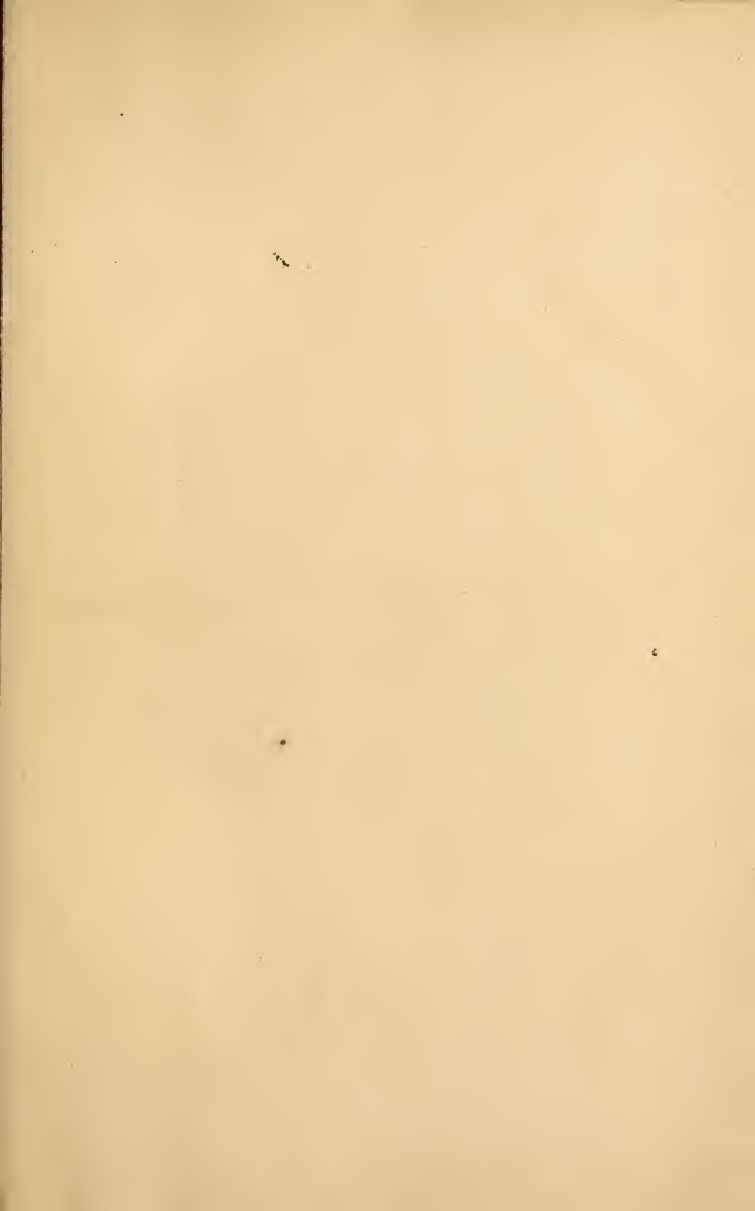
Number Six

Short Biographical Sketches
of some of Chicago's Early Settlers:

Part 2.

WM. H. BROWN, B. W. RAYMOND, Esq., Hon. J. YOUNG SCAMMON,
CHARLES WALKER, Esq., THOMAS CHURCH, Esq.







Sam Hoops Brady
H. H. Brown

[Bushnell, Wm. H.]

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF SOME OF THE

EARLY SETTLERS

OF THE

CITY OF CHICAGO.

WILLIAM H. BROWN.
BENJAMIN W. RAYMOND.
J. YOUNG SCAMMON.
CHARLES WALKER.
THOMAS CHURCH.

CHICAGO:
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c 42.9

HON. WILLIAM H. BROWN.

[From the Chicago Magazine, March, 1857.]

To write a sketch of some living men which would be truthful and at the same time readable, which shall present their virtues in due relation to their faults, and as relieved by them, without injustice to the feelings of the parties concerned, is not an easy matter.

Some men are, like the head of a certain statesman, of which the phrenologist could make nothing, because he could find no "bump" about it—it was symmetrically smooth in every part—while others exhibit such decided traits of character, that inequalities are a matter of necessity. Their virtues and their failings alike exhibit themselves decidedly, and in natural correspondence with each other.

Mr. Brown, the subject of this sketch, is a man of marked and decided traits. What he knows, he knows; what he says, he means; and whatever subject comes before him elicits, without delay, a plump and square opinion. Such men must of necessity cross somebody's track, in the course of their lives, and will come to be somewhat differently regarded by different classes of people.

While, therefore, this sketch will endeavor to set forth Mr. Brown as he is, as far as it goes, it cannot of course enter upon such a discussion as would be called for were he not yet moving among us.

Mr. Brown is a native of the State of Connecticut, and was born about the beginning of the nineteenth century. His father was a native of Rhode Island; his profession was that of the law, which he practiced for some twenty-five years, at Auburn, N.Y., with decided talent and success, and then removed to the City of New York, where, a few years since, he died.

The son William, gained his education, as many young men of his time were accustomed to do, while the country was not as well supplied with schools of a high grade as at present, partly in the office of his father, and at various schools; but not extending it in youth, far beyond what are considered good business acquirements. He studied law with his father, and then engaged in its practice with him.

In December, 1818, about the time of his majority, as we infer, he came to seek his fortune in the farther or extreme West, as it

then was; and opened a law office in the old French town of Kaskaskia, in this State. His inducement to select Illinois as the State of his residence, he declared to be, that it had, in the summer of that year, adopted a *free* Constitution; without which he would by no means have taken a residence in it. In the spring of 1819, he was appointed a Clerk of the United States Court, which office he held for the period of sixteen years. The seat of government being removed to Vandalia, and the law requiring the Clerk of the Court to keep his office at the Capitol of the State, Mr. Brown followed it thither in December, 1820. He immediately purchased one-half the proprietary interest in a newspaper then published, and called "*The Illinois Intelligencer*." This paper dated back to 1815, and was the first newspaper ever established in the Territory. Mr. Brown entered upon its editorial duties, and continued in that connection until February, 1823. His partner in the paper was Mr. Wm. Berry, who was a member of the legislature of 1823; which legislature passed a resolution for a convention to alter the Constitution of the State, with a view to the introduction of slavery. The means, by which this resolution went through the legislature, were of a very high-handed character, which the reader will find somewhat illustrated on pages 52-3 of Ford's History of Illinois; and in a lecture delivered before the Historical Society of Chicago, by Mr. Brown.

Mr. Berry voted for this resolution, while Mr. Brown the editor was against it, and denounced it in such terms as he thought applicable to the case. Having prepared an article for the next paper, which exposed the scandalous measures by which the resolution had been carried through the House of Representatives, and having taken proofs of it, preparatory to its insertion, these proofs were surreptitiously taken from the office; and being read by the parties implicated, a storm was at once raised, such as is not uncommon, even in our day, when this same question of slavery is at stake. The usual remedy for such impertinent boldness was at once proposed, *viz.*: a mob, which should demolish the office, and send Mr. Brown about other business. Luckily, Mr. Brown had friends, and his friends had pluck; and their rally saved the office. The paper containing the awful exposition appeared; and was deemed such an indignity to the august body whose doings had been censured, that a resolution was adopted citing the author to their bar. To this citation Mr. Brown declined to answer; giving as his reason, that the Constitution secured the liberty of the Press: and so the resolution went over as unfinished business, and the wounded honor of the House was committed to the tender mercies of the time for its healing.

The partnership in the Illinois Intelligencer came to an end, by the sale of Mr. Brown's interest; and the paper advocated the convention—or in other words, the introduction of slavery

—for the next year. By some reasons, nevertheless, not made public, the paper was given into other editorial hands, some eight months before the vote was taken, and, during that time, did good service in the canvass for freedom.

As Mr. Brown had embarked in the cause of freedom in the State, and had determined to leave it, should the folly of re-introducing slavery prevail, he now gave most of his time to writing and working against that policy; and did much toward securing the verdict rendered in the 2000 majority which forbid its establishment; for which we who now dwell here, and our posterity, will owe him a debt of gratitude and honor.

In December, 1822, the subject of this sketch was married to Miss Harriet C. Seward, daughter of Col. John Seward, deceased, then of Montgomery Co., Ill. Mrs. Brown is the mother of four living sons and one daughter; of whom three are now in active business, and two in the course of their education.

Mr. Brown removed with his family to Chicago, in October, 1835, having been appointed cashier of a branch of the State Bank of Illinois, which had been created here in the winter of 1834. This position he had accepted with some reluctance, under the impression that his previous pursuits had not been of a kind to give him that knowledge of financial matters required in the charge of such an institution. In urging upon him the appointment, one of the principal stockholders remarked, that he possessed one qualification very necessary: in that he could say NO, as easily as most men could say YES. As soon as the proper arrangements could be completed, the bank commenced operations, and continued as the only institution of the kind till the year 1843.

The Bank prospered well under Mr. Brown's management, and might, perhaps, have been prospering yet, had the state of the country been anywise settled and healthy. But the serious derangements commencing in 1836, or rather back of that period, in the financial affairs of the nation, carried away bank, and business, East and West; and the Illinois State Bank did not escape. It suffered great losses, and these, with adverse legislation, induced the stockholders to wind it up. The Chicago branch suffered with the rest; for real estate was forced upon it in place of money. Yet, in the aggregate, it was so managed that the profit and loss would have shown a balance on the right side.

At the time of Mr. Brown's arrival in the State, its population was not over 40,000; and none, or next to none, of them lived north of the present limits of Bond County. When he came to Chicago, it was a village of about two years' growth, and contained about 2000 people. All Northern Illinois was a wilderness; and, two years later, the whole north half of the State was included in one congressional district; and sent Hon. John T. Stuart, of Springfield, to Congress; electing him over his com-

petitor, Stephen A. Douglas, who, on that occasion, made his first appearance on the stage in pursuit of political honors. The writer of this sketch cast his first vote in Illinois against Mr. Douglas, at that time, and made one of the five majority which defeated him.

In the conduct of such an institution, through times such as these, there were two things which it were impossible to secure together. One was the safety of the institution, and the other, the good-will of all the community. Everybody was in a condition of suffering, and wanted money, with an intensity that could take no denial; and the very urgency of the want, pointed, in no inconsiderable number of cases, to the very reason which made it unsafe to accommodate them. The Cashier of a bank must of necessity look to the safety of his trust. If he is faithful to that, no matter whether *no* is an easy word to him or not; he is forced to make the two letters which compose it, current in his institution. *No*, is not a popular word, with men who wish to borrow money, especially if they wish to borrow it very much; as those then did, who wanted to borrow it at all. Mr. Brown's peculiar qualification already mentioned perhaps conduced more to the safety of his trust, than to his popularity for the time being. But integrity and decision vindicate themselves sooner or later, and he has lost little in the long run. Indeed the men who supposed themselves to suffer from lack of a decision in their favor, would now often choose him as the very man to take charge of a trust of their own, had they one, requiring sagacity and decision united with integrity in its management.

The building, in which the bank was kept, stood at the S.-W. cor. of LaSalle and South Water Sts.; and is well remembered by all the oldest residents of the city. It has only disappeared within the last four or five years.

While the bank was in operation, Chicago was confined principally to the vicinity of the river. The dwellings even, did not stretch far away from the centre. In the spring of 1835, a three story brick building, probably 117 Lake street, was erected, and finished in the fall, and then filled with goods by Breese and Shepherd. It was the general impression that the stand was too *far from the centre* of business, and would prove a bad speculation.

Mr. Brown has been a professor of religion in connection with the Presbyterian Church for many years. He sustained the office of ruling elder in that connection in Vandalia, and has held the office from 1835, or nearly the entire period of his residence in this city; and is as well acquainted with ecclesiastical, as with legal business. He has constantly been a stanch supporter of his own branch of the church; and a reliable helper in any thing properly claiming his aid in any other connection.

The first church edifice of the Presbyterian connection was erected upon the alley on Clark Street; between Lake and Randolph, on the West side of the street, (54 Clark street,) where the firm of S. H. Kerfoot & Co. are now situated. The building fronted towards Lake St.; and a large slough run diagonally through the lot in front of the Church, which, on rainy Sabbaths, and in wet times, was bridged by benches from the Church. The writer of this, has a distinct recollection of thus reaching the interior of this place of worship. This church, was at the time, the only one erected by any denomination; though the Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians, all had a church organization; and the Catholics had a small Chapel near the corner of Washington Street and Michigan Avenue. A few families lived on the north side of the river, and a few stores of goods had been opened there. The town had no sidewalks; and mud of no very certain depth, was plenty, and easily reached. Nothing like a harbor existed; and vessels were accustomed to lie outside, and unload by lighters.

In 1840, Mr. Brown was appointed School Agent; an office which involved the care of the funds for School purposes in this city. His election was almost accidental; being by a majority of one only of the Whig party, with which he always acted. His acceptance was on the condition, that his services should be gratuitous; and this very likely contributed to keep him in the office, at a time when party greed watched for every post of profit, however small, very much as hungry dogs watched for bones, without regard to their size, or the sort of animals to which they belong. Perhaps the city never made a more fortunate hit, either by blunder or design; for the state of our Schools hitherto had been most deplorable. The School Fund was all unproductive; having been let, for the most part, to parties who had failed to pay, either principal or interests. There were no school-houses fit for use, and the whole matter of Schools was in a decidedly helter-skelter condition. The real era of a change dates with the election of Mr. Brown to this office of School Agent. Confidence began at once to revive; for all parties, even the hungry ones, felt that the fund *was now safe*.

It was no small labor to collect the scattered fragments of the fund, and put them in shape to be productive; but it was accomplished: and though Mr. B. devoted twelve or thirteen years to this business, in connection with his other affairs; loaning it out as it was collected, he never made an uncollectable debt. The Schools gradually assumed tone and character; suitable houses were built, and the system, as it now is, gained shape and consistency.

At the time of his resignation of the office of School Agent,

in view of his gratuitous services, the Common Council of the city passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, In the resignation of Wm. H. Brown, late School Agent, the community have lost the services of a faithful, diligent, and meritorious officer; one who for the long period of thirteen years has bestowed a paternal care—to the fostering and judicious management of that sacred trust—the School Fund; and

Whereas, Although the unsolicited expression of public approbation may not add one iota to the already established character of the individual, who is the object of it; yet we believe that a testimonial, of this nature, may afford to any honorable mind a feeling of pleasure and gratification on retiring from office, with the unbiased verdict of well done thou good and faithful servant.

Thereupon be it resolved by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Chicago in Common Council assembled.

That we tender to Wm. H. Brown, late School Agent, our fullest expression of respect and approbation, for the correct and judicious manner in which, for such a long period of years, he has fulfilled the duties appertaining to his late position.

Resolved, That in the economical execution and careful attention, with which the late agent has performed his official requirements, we have presented, for the future guidance of his successor, an example well worthy of imitation; and in which we discern the very unusual occurrence of a public office being held by one individual for so long a period, more for the promotion of a laudable and praiseworthy object, than for the emoluments attached to it.

Resolved, That for the more fully carrying out the intention of this Preamble and Resolutions, they be entered on record, and a copy presented to the subject of them."

Mr. B. was one of the first Inspectors of Common Schools, elected under the city charter; and was in that Board for twelve or thirteen consecutive years. This Board of inspectors has been the instrument and agency, and in good degree the cause of our present School System. He was a constant and punctual attendant at its sittings, and a leading and influential member of it; and is entitled to his share of the credit of what it has done.

In the winter of 1846, in connection with a few others, Mr. Brown purchased the original charter of the Galena and Chicago Union Rail Road, from the Estate of E. K. Hubbard, Esq., then lately deceased. Measures were immediately taken to put on foot a working Railroad in the Northwest. A little piece of road had been built before Mr. Hubbard's death, but it was never worked, and went to decay. To start this Galena Road

was an undertaking of no small labor. The country was poor: there were no Rail Roads anywhere in the West; and nobody had much faith in them, nor in fact in anything else. So completely had all confidence been wrecked, in the great revulsions of 1836, and onward, that nobody was willing to embark in any new scheme, either with effort or capital. The extent to which this was then true, cannot be conceived of now, by those who have no experience in that chapter of our history. This Galena Road was therefore looked upon as a very doubtful affair; and any amount of writing and cyphering, conventioning and speech-making, was necessary to get it started. The farmers in the country, who had felt in all their bones, as well as pockets, the need of some means of getting to market with their crops, were much more alive to it than our city property holders; who had saved what little they had out of the fire, so to speak; and who did not like to risk it again beyond their fingers' ends. But the farmers were poor and able to take but little stock; and as the citizens would not risk much, the road was begun on a rather small scale. Mr. B. became one of the largest subscribers to the stock, and is yet one of the most extensive of its stockholders. He has always been a Director of the Road, and is now its Vice-President. He has therefore had ample opportunity to aid in giving shape to the policy under which that Road has been managed.

Mr. Brown was the very man to have a hand in that undertaking. Cautious to a degree verging on excess: knowing the full value of every dollar that passes through his hands: and constitutionally determined that every dime shall do its own duty, he was the very man to aid in the beginning of a road, without adequate means and without confidence, and carry it forward, step by step, to success. The first twelve miles of the road only cost about \$6000 per mile; but the first twelve miles told the story, for they showed that the road could be built, and would pay. This road has been the goose that has laid our golden eggs. It is the mother of all the rest in our Northwest.

Mr. B. is a man of capital. He had acquired a competency before his removal to this city, and since that time, with the exception of the perilous years succeeding 1836, has been constantly adding to the amount. He early became possessed of considerable tracts of real estate, which has of late, very rapidly enhanced in value. He has entered into no rash speculations, nor made any desperate pushes for fortune. He takes care of what he has; and adds to it when he can do so with safety. He has never entered so largely upon building as have some others, but has expended considerable sums in that way at one time and another. His late residence, at the N.-W. cor. of Pine and Illinois Streets, North Side, he erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars, in 1836; and it was, at that time, considered

the best house in the city. He is now building a residence, with front of Athens marble, on Michigan Avenue, to cost about thirty thousand dollars. As to his present possessions, he is not a man who makes any exhibition of his property. His answer to a question regarding it, was, that the inquirer would have "to guess as to the amount." Our guess therefore is, that it will not fall below \$500,000, and may go to twice that sum, or even above that.

Mr. Brown is personally a tall, well-formed man, with a slight stoop of the shoulders; with a keen dark eye, and hair once black as the raven, but now inclining to iron-gray. When young, he is said to have been a very fine-looking man, and we can well believe it, for he holds his honors very well as yet.

Mr. Brown is a *giving* man; being applied to, perhaps, in aid of more charities than any one man in the city; and perhaps he answers to as many, or more, than any man. But he is not *naturally* a giver, for his *motto* is, to keep what he has: and his native answer to all applications, when that answer does not flow through the channel of his christian principles, would very likely be his easy *No!* His manner is often *brusque*; but his heart is kindly; and though he who comes to him for an object not wholly explained, may be chilled by the perpendicularities of a nervous impatience, which explodes suddenly: he has only to wait for the flow of kindness and good sense, which is sure to come, to be reassured.

Mr. Brown has the talent of good common sense; one most certainly of which the world has need, as fully as of any other; this, with his inflexible integrity, gives him a position in regard to trusts, both public and private, held by few men in our city. He is now in the midst of well ripened middle life, and yet in active duty—a large part of it connected with these trusts, of various kinds, put into his hands. We say of him, as Horace said of Augustus—we forget the Latin of it—but the meaning of it is, "Late may he go hence."

Mr. Brown died in Amsterdam, Holland, June 17, 1867, aged 72 years.

HON. WILLIAM H. BROWN.

By R. W. PATTERSON, D. D.

THE present writer has been requested to add to the foregoing sketch of Mr. Brown's life such facts as may be within his knowledge. Being obliged to depend solely on his own memory, he cannot hope to give such interesting particulars as may probably be known to other parties.

During the financial troubles of 1857-1860, Mr. Brown carefully managed his affairs, and escaped serious embarrassment, having, as usual, kept out of debt, and taken good care of his property. In the year 1860, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives in the State Legislature. In this position he acquitted himself honorably and usefully, being among the most industrious, judicious, and influential members of the body.

In the great struggle for the preservation of our government, which may be said to have commenced in a decided form in 1856, and which culminated in the memorable rebellion in 1861, Mr. Brown, as might have been expected, was deeply enlisted for the cause of liberty and the Union. During the Presidential canvass of 1860, he took an active part in support of Mr. Lincoln, and was as much elated, perhaps, as any man by the success of the Republicans. When, however, the rebellion of the Southern States became a certain fact, and internal war was inevitable, he was very much depressed, feeling, as he often said to the writer, that no one could predict the end. But he had faith in God, and had no doubt that it was the duty of every good citizen to stand for the defence of the right and the support of good government at whatever sacrifice. He cheer-

fully paid his taxes to the Government, incurred by the war, and gave up his sons to the service of his country without a murmur.

After the war, as age was advancing upon him, Mr. Brown retired, in part, from business; devoting himself, chiefly, to the management of his own property. But he never lost his interest in the public welfare, and never gave up his positions in the several Boards of trust with which he was connected, such as those of the Chicago Orphan Asylum, and the Insane Asylum at Jacksonville. He continued to be active and faithful as a member and an elder of the Second Presbyterian Church until his departure for Europe, shortly before his death. He several times represented the Presbytery of Chicago in the General Assembly as a Ruling Elder, and was widely known in the denomination as among the most reliable friends of its enterprises. For many years, he was a corporate member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, to whose funds he was a large contributor during his life, and by a handsome provision in his will. And the cause of Home Missions had few, if any, more generous helpers. He was deeply interested, also, during all his later years, in the Mission Sunday School work, and in the Bethel cause, while in his own particular church he was always among the foremost givers, and the most devoted and steadfast supporters, being uniformly in his place on the Sabbath and in the weekly prayer meeting, as well as on special occasions.

In the summer of the year 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Brown left Chicago on a tour to Europe, partly for pleasure and partly on account of his failing health. During this trip, his keen relish for new scenes, and his habit of activity, led him to exert himself beyond his strength. After traveling through Great Britain and extensively through the countries of Europe, he occasionally exhibited signs of exhaustion, and in Amsterdam, Holland, he was taken with the small-pox. When he seemed almost recovered from this distressing disease, and was preparing to resume his travels, he was suddenly seized with paralysis, and shortly sank under it, dying peacefully on the 17th of June, 1867, at the age of 72 years. In the early part of August, following, the writer visited the old Bible House and the room

in which Mr. Brown's spirit took its flight, went to his grave, and saw the coffin that contained all of him that was mortal.

In the autumn of that year, his remains were transferred to their final resting-place in Graceland Cemetery.

His widow, Mrs. Harriet C. Brown; his four sons, S. Lockwood, Charles B., Theodore F., and Frederick, and his daughter, Mrs. Mary Tyler, survive him, and are still residents of Chicago.

I trust I shall be pardoned if I now add some of my own personal recollections and impressions of Mr. Brown, as I knew him in his public and private relations.

It was my privilege to become acquainted with Mr. Brown in the year 1833, when I was a student in Illinois College, although I had known him, by reputation, for a considerable time before. For he was a prominent citizen of this State almost from its admission into the Union, having become a citizen in the Territory while he was yet a very young man, and having risen to a position of distinction and public usefulness before he had reached the age of twenty-five years. Being, when I first saw him, among the more noted friends of church music in the State, he was invited to attend a musical convention at Jacksonville, which was held immediately after the annual commencement in the College. In this way I was first drawn to him as being interested in a subject that always engrossed a share of my own thought and attention. After that occasion, I kept up a knowledge of his movements until the year 1840, when I met him again in Chicago, where he had already resided for some years, and was an officer in the First Presbyterian Church. During the summer of that year, I learned more of his personal traits and peculiarities than I had known before, and was more than ever attracted to him. From that time onward until his death, I knew him intimately as a friend and as an Elder in the church of which I was Pastor from its organization in 1842, till the year 1873, six years after his decease in Europe. It will thus be seen that I had an opportunity of special acquaintance with Mr. Brown, such as few others enjoyed. And still cherishing his memory with the warmest regard, I take pleasure in adding this small contribution to the memorial of him, which it is the desire of his

family and friends to put on permanent record in this volume.

I have known well and long many of Mr. Brown's attached friends, among whom were Joseph Eccles, Esq., of Hillsborough, Hon. Samuel D. Lockwood, formerly of Jacksonville, and who died two years ago at Batavia; Hon. Thos. Mather, Hon. John T. Stuart, John Todd, M.D., and Rev. John G. Bergen, D. D., of Springfield; President Abraham Lincoln; Rev. William K. Stewart, of Vandalia; and Rev. Thuron Baldwin, D D., late of New Jersey. A man who commanded the confidence of such gentlemen must have possessed excellences of no ordinary class. Especially deserving of mention was the life-long intimacy between him and Judge Lockwood, one of the purest and noblest men Illinois ever numbered among her jurists and citizens. Only a year before Judge Lockwood's death, in conversation with the writer, he referred in the most affectionate terms to his lamented friend, Mr. Brown, whom he was accustomed to visit every month during all the later years of his life. I well remember the estimation in which Mr. Brown was held by the older citizens of the State—lawyers, physicians, clergymen, and others, such as Judge Pope, Benj. Mills, Esq., Dr. Newhall, Hon. David A. Smith, and Rev. John M. Peck, D.D.

Among the notable traits of Mr. Brown's character were the following:

1. He was fair and conscientious in his political commitments and action. He was decided in his convictions, first as a Whig and then as a Republican, but never did I know or hear of his espousing the cause of a notoriously bad man of his own party. He may on some occasions have quietly voted for one man of questionable character, but of good principles, in preference to another worse man whose principles he deemed erroneous and mischievous. But he never warmly supported a corrupt man of any party. And he always urged the nomination of good men. He was not a political partisan, but a true, generous patriot.

2. Mr. Brown was a sincere philanthropist. He abhorred those levelling ideas of equality that would destroy all the rights of property, and break up family and social ties as established at present in civilized communities. But he earnestly

contended for individual and political liberty, and while he never favored what seemed to him impracticable schemes for the emancipation of the enslaved, he firmly resisted the efforts that were made for the introduction of slavery into this State, and did more, perhaps, than any other man to avert that great curse from Illinois, when parties were nearly equally balanced; thus saving the State for the cause of freedom—an event, that, in its consequences, probably turned the scale in favor of our national government in the recent bloody strife between the North and the South. Mr. Brown was not a sentimental philanthropist; he carefully inquired how he could do the most for humanity at large, instead of yielding to every momentary impulse on the presentation of distress. Thus he co-operated with every well-devised endeavor to provide for the needy and the suffering, while he sometimes turned away the improvident beggar. He was a foremost friend of orphan asylums, hospitals, and other kindred institutions established by the State or by private beneficence, doing always his full share to help them. He was philanthropic on principle, and not from mere impulse.

3. He was, in general, a liberal and useful member of society. He gave generously to every cause that commended itself to his judgment, while at times he firmly rejected applications that seemed to him unworthy of patronage. It would be difficult to name a good enterprise begun in Chicago, during his residence in the city, for which he did not contribute. And he was an active helper in a great number of patriotic endeavors. I used to think there was scarcely another man in Chicago whose name was found high up on more subscription papers, or who was a member of more committees and boards organized for beneficent purposes.

4. Mr. Brown was scrupulously honest and trustful in every relation of life. I never knew him to be accused of unfairness or deception in any business transaction. I never heard a suspicion breathed against his integrity. I never met with a person who ventured to charge him with untruthfulness or prevarication. He always seemed to me unusually fair and candid in his statements of facts. I am sure I express the judgment of all those who knew him best when I say that he was extraordinarily exact in his adherence to the requirements of truth and

Church and of his Lord. Few men have led more consistent Christian lives. His dying breath was one of prayer, and undoubtedly "he entered heaven with prayer."

In all that has been said, it has not been designed to assert or imply that Mr. Brown was, in the ordinary sense, a popular man. He had a certain severity of manner, in his intercourse with strangers, and sometimes with friends, that caused him to be misunderstood and misjudged. He did not sufficiently study the amenities of life, and he paid the temporal penalty of this neglect. Contrary to the common rule, he was most esteemed and loved by those who best knew his inner life. It was necessary to get through the outer shell to the real man to appreciate the nobleness of his character. Those persons who did this, will fully justify all that I have said of him.

Mr. Brown's memory will be blessed, not only by his own family, but by many friends, who felt, when he died, that a good and really great man had fallen, and who will keep his virtues embalmed in their hearts, when the blander traits of many more pliant men who were more widely applauded in life will be forgotten.



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D. M. Raymond

BENJAMIN W. RAYMOND, ESQ.

[From the Chicago Magazine, April, 1857.]

Late in the seventeenth century, a few Huguenots, driven from France by persecution to England, settled afterwards in New England. The subject of this sketch is a descendant from these, on his father's side. He was born in Rome, Oneida county, New York, in 1801; and was the son of Benjamin Raymond, who, as early as 1796, left his birth-place, Richmond, Berkshire county, Mass. His mother was a daughter of Thomas Wright, one of the brothers of that name who, emigrating from Weathersfield, Conn., were among the first settlers of Rome, which was long known as Wright's Settlement, in the wilderness of the then West. His father was engaged for some years in connection with the late Judge Wright, (afterwards chief engineer of the Erie canal,) in surveying into townships the northern counties of New York: and which were then all a wilderness, from the Mohawk River northward to the St. Lawrence. He selected the site of the town of Potsdam, in St. Lawrence county, where he lived for several years, and where he held the office of Judge for the county. He died in 1824, in the state of Delaware; being then engaged as engineer upon the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal.

The early years of Benjamin W. were spent with an aunt in Whitestown, New York, having lost his mother at the age of five years. When he had reached the age of ten, he was taken home to pursue his education in an academy which his father had established; having erected, at his own expense, a building to be used for the purpose of a high school and of public worship. Here he spent four years, dividing his time between school and the duties of a clerk in a village store. He also spent a good part of a year at school in Montreal, boarding with a French family where no English was spoken.—Afterwards he resumed his clerkship at his father's store, in Norfolk, St. Lawrence Co., and wound up his school attendance in the study of practical mathematics, particularly surveying, which he afterwards practiced to some extent.

His introduction to the more responsible cares of business took place at the age of nineteen, when he was sent down the Ratchett River, into the St. Lawrence, to Montreal, with a large quantity of lumber, which he was to sell and account for, and

in which he acquitted himself to the full satisfaction of his employer. About two years after this, he purchased a small stock of goods, and commenced business on his own account: but his father dying soon after, he was left, at the age of 22, the eldest of nine orphan children, without other means of support than his small stock of goods, purchased on credit, and sold, of necessity, under all the disadvantages of a new country without currency, or other means of purchase; and dependant on a barter of crude commodities for whatever trade was done. As his eldest brother was but thirteen years of age, he soon saw the impossibility of sustaining the family at Norfolk, and so closed his business at that place, in debt to his largest creditor to the amount of \$600, (which was paid in instalments some years afterwards), and started for Oneida county, once more to try a new tack for his life voyage. Here, a clerkship introduced him to a partnership in business with Mr. Wm. Wright, one of the oldest merchants at Rome, which was continued for three years. A feeling of responsibility on account of his orphan brothers and sisters induced habits of the strictest industry and economy, and led him to adopt those principles of temperance to which he has ever since adhered. The circle of young men into which he had been thrown in St. Lawrence county were dissipated, and their gayety was not without a charm for young Raymond. But when returning to Oneida county he firmly resolved to leave all such associates behind, and to seek for the future only the society of the strictly virtuous. Temperance societies were not yet invented; but Mr. Raymond made a pledge for himself, and has kept it to this day.

It was here, during the great revival of religion, in which Rev. C. G. Finney figured as the chief preacher, that Mr. Raymond made a profession of religion, early in the year 1826.

One of the first Young Mens' Temperance Societies in the State was formed at Rome, and Mr. Raymond at once relinquished the sale of liquors, though it was a very important source of profit to the merchant at that time. That was in 1828

In 1831, Mr. Raymond formed his first acquaintance with his future friend and partner, Hon. S. N. Dexter; and very soon after turned his steps westward, determined to seek his fortune in what was then the *far west*; with a promise from Mr. Dexter that if he should find a good place near the western lakés for settlement and trade, he would supply him the capital necessary for a commencement of business. In this journey he pushed westward through northern Ohio and Michigan, as far as White Pigeon; the last twenty-five miles of which was reached on the back of an Indian pony, guided partly by lead of an Indian trail, and partly by the course of the sun. He found plenty of persons who, like himself, were in search of places for the sale of goods, but very few who promised to be

purchasers, and so turned backward as far as the town of East Bloomfield, in Western New York, where he once more commenced business. Here he spent four years in a successful trade, connected with the purchase of wool. Here, also, one of the most important steps of his life was taken, in his entrance into the matrimonial relation with Miss Amelia Porter, of East Bloomfield, his present wife; a step which has probably had as much to do with his success in life, and the position he now occupies, as any other. Mrs. Raymond was the mother of two sons, one only living, and now a professor in Williams College.

Finding that his business did not allow of much expansion at East Bloomfield, he began, in 1835, to look once more westward, and Chicago being then somewhat talked about, he at once fixed his attention upon this place, being confirmed in the idea, from its natural position upon the map, that it would at some time be a place of importance; and also from a remark he once heard from Hon. De Witt Clinton; whose sagacity in regard to such matters was seldom at fault.

In January, 1836, he therefore set out by stage for Chicago, being provided with authority to draw upon his friend Dexter to the amount of \$10,000, if he chose to do so, for purposes of joint investment in real estate. After some looking at Milwaukee and elsewhere, and investing his \$10,000, he returned, closed up his business in N. Y., and set his stake in Chicago about the 1st of June, 1836; having been preceded by a large stock of goods; which, however, having to go by sail vessels around the Lakes, did not arrive until July. The city was at that time running over with merchandise, wanting nothing but purchasers. Such a class of merchants, too, as were a portion of them, never seen elsewhere: being mere adventurers, who had, by hook or by crook, and commonly by both, got possession of their stocks; their next aim was to get rid of them at whatever price could be had.

This disheartening and ruinous condition of things, left but a poor chance for him who thought only of a legitimate trade, which should turn his stock into cash.—Mr. R. was therefore obliged to look about him for other avenues to help off his goods. He established a branch at Milwaukee, one at Geneva, in Kane Co., and another at DesPlaines, on the Canal.

The disasters of that period, commencing in August, 1836, were under full headway for about three years, and came especially upon such as had made purchases of real estate, with notes to mature from time to time. The fall of 1837 found the firm of B. W. Raymond & Co. minus the ability to meet their engagements by about \$15,000, in addition to their loss of capital, amounting to as many more. This was a state of things with a bad look to it, and was fully made known to his partner; but Mr. Dexter was a man with a back bone in him, and nobly sustained the house with \$20,000, as it was called for, during the

years 1837-8-9; so that, by attention to meeting and securing liabilities as they accrued, the credit of the house was unshaken and their business uninterrupted during the whole period of that terrible depression. From the year 1838 to 1843, business was good, and the firm had so far retrieved its condition that Mr. Raymond determined to make an effort to put himself square with the world again.

For this purpose he sold out his stock of goods, receiving one-half in cash and in paper running six months, and the balance in real estate. This latter consisted of sixty feet on Clark street, including the old Post Office on the alley of the Sherman House Block, which was valued at \$5000. By this sale, and by collecting dues, and by turning over all his interest in the real estate owned by the firm, to his partner, who was the largest creditor—Post Office property and all, at its estimated value, the whole precisely paid the liabilities of B. W. Raymond & Co., with 7 per cent. interest, together with all the private debts of Mr. Raymond; and left him with about \$2000 for a fresh start. Mr. Dexter rather objected to receiving all the real estate in their hands, as it had begun again to advance, and he was anxious that Mr. Raymond should share in the profit, as well as to have borne the labor. But Mr. R. preferred to have his affairs in a shape to leave his family with some resources in case of his death; and, besides, he wished to have one more clear start in the world. Mr. Dexter would, however, only receive the property on condition that Mr. Raymond should manage it as he had done, and gave him full power of attorney to that effect. After all transfers were made, Mr. D. so arranged matters as that an exact account should be kept of all real estate to him, with 7 per cent. added each year, and then that all profits over the cost and interest should be equally divided between Mr. R. and himself; as his intention, he declared to be, that Mr. R. should not spend seven of the best years of his life exclusively for his benefit; but that if anything was to be made from real estate, he should share it.

Previous to the year 1843, Mr. R. purchased, on account of Mr. D. and himself, of the late Jas. T. Gifford, one-half of his interest in the village of Elgin, and in that year commenced the erection of a woolen factory for Mr. Dexter, which was completed in 1844. He was also concerned in a store at that place till 1851, and owned considerable real estate in the town.

In the year 1839, he purchased the lot No. 122, on Lake street, Chicago, and in connection with Messrs. Strachan & Scott, erected, not the first brick, but the first *fire-proof* stores in the town. In about three weeks after their completion, the great fire of that year swept the whole block on Lake street, from their stores to Dearborn street, including the original Tremont House, standing diagonally across the street from its present position—and northward to the alley.

In March, 1839, Mr. Raymond was put in nomination for Mayor of the city, without any expectation on his part of an election, since party lines were then drawn in regard to city officers, as well as those in the state or nation; and Mr. R. acted with the whigs, while their opponents were largely in the ascendant. He was, however, elected, together with half the Council on the same side, which put upon him the duty of giving a casting vote, whenever the question of office, or appointment, or of party advantage should divide that body. Mr. Raymond acknowledges that for once he was swayed by his friends, who insisted that he ought to use his power for the party to which he belonged: but that on the next day he formed the resolution to which he has since adhered, of never voting for a man whom he deemed unfit, because he was of a particular party. From that time he has been opposed to bringing party politics into the arena of our municipal elections.

During this year the well-known counterfeiting of the Canal checks of \$100 occurred. Mr. Raymond gave such attention to the case that three fellows engaged in the business were put into the clutches of justice; of whom two went to Alton, and the other,* by changing venue, got off on straw bail, and was seen no more in these parts. He brought up in Sing Sing, however, and may be doing service to the state of New York till this day, for aught known of him.

The Mayor, at this time, was paid a nominal salary of \$1000, which, by depreciation of city orders, in which it was paid, reduced it to about \$750. Mr. R. made no money from his office, however; for that year being one of great suffering on the line of the canal, the occupants of the shanties naturally poured into the city for relief; and the salary, drawing after it more of the same sort, went to the aid of the Emeralds, as much more has gone since; not only from the plethoric pockets of Mayors, but from all other pockets reachable, by lugubrious jeremiads of want.

There came on, also, during the year, a great bridge contest. That over the river at Dearborn street being swept away, a strong party arose opposing the erection of another, thinking, either that those who wanted to get from that side of the stream to this, might crawl under; or, that people who would leave the "sunny south" side and banish themselves to those hyperborean regions lying to the northward of the current of mud, ought to stay there, and no more trouble those of so much better taste, and of better fortunes. So strong was this utterance of the *vox populi* that the matter was decided in that com-

* The genuine scrip was printed in the *Chicago American* office, and was an exceedingly poor job. Only a poor printer could have executed the counterfeit; the type, vignette—a ship—and the paper could be found in any country printing-office. The counterfeiter tried here was the notorious Otis Allen, of Buffalo, N.Y.

mon council by the casting vote of the Mayor, and a bridge obtained on Clark street, on condition that the north-siders should subscribe \$3000 of city bonds to put it over. And so the benighted hyperboreans were admitted once more to sunlight and the society of "the people."

The sale of Fort Dearborn addition to Chicago took place during that year. Mr. R. had the first intimation of it while in New York, in April; and as he knew from the history of like cases, that the people of Chicago expected the lands to be given to the city, as had been customary, he exerted himself for a postponement of the sale, till the matter could be brought before Congress—the sale being advertised by Mr. Van Buren, the President, to take place in June. For this purpose he visited Washington, and saw the President, who put him off with the soft ambiguities which he knew so well how to use; and as soon as he was gone, hurried on the sale, under the avowal that the government was "in pressing need of funds." As the next best thing, Mr. R., with a committee of the council, put in for a public square, consisting of a block, to be reserved from sale.

Their success was better than nothing, inasmuch as they got half what they asked for; and Dearborn Park testifies to-day the result. He also persuaded the Agent of the Government to add 60 feet to the width of State Street, for a market.

As a sample of celerity of travel in those days, Mr. R. started, in the month of March, 1839, for New York. He left on Tuesday morning, by stage; that is, in a lumber wagon with trunks for seats, and after riding day and night, with one night's exception, brought up at Tecumseh, forty miles from Detroit, at three o'clock on the next Sunday morning, the last seven miles being on foot, as the four horses were sufficiently loaded by the aforesaid trunks and wagon. During one week more of travel, beginning on the following Monday, Buffalo was gained; and one week further still brought them to New York, making three weeks in the transit. Eight years after this voyage of three weeks, Mr. Raymond was laughed at for saying, that in ten years more, he expected to make the same journey in three days. Perhaps the laughs are eachinnating yet.

In 1842, Mr. Raymond was once more elected Mayor of Chicago. This was about the time of the expiration of the long depression which commenced in 1837. City orders were still hawking about at 70 to 75 cents on the dollar, for goods or truck of some sort; and the people were as poor as the city. Real estate had but little value, and everybody would have been rid of it but that nobody else would take it; and so being obliged to keep what they had, an abundance of people were made rich in time in spite of themselves.

The city government entered upon a rigid course of economy; their whole expenditures for the year municipal, 1842, were

about \$9800, and the receipts \$13,800, about \$4000 more than the expenditures, and before the end of the year, city orders loomed up to par.

During the year, the late cemetery grounds were selected; the old burying grounds being among the sand hills near Lill's brewery. Some forty acres of those grounds were bought, surveyed, and a public sale had. To get means of paying for the forty acres, some \$1200 of city script was pledged in a loan of \$600 for sixty days! The sale furnished the means to redeem the script. This will, perhaps, seem small business at this day, but a great many large things begin small.

During the next year, 1843, Mr. R. endeavored to induce some of his creditors to take the lot on Clark street, north of the Sherman House, and including the old Post office, at \$5-000 in discharge of liabilities. This idea was scouted, and the property was passed over to his partner as already stated. He kept it till it brought him \$19,500, and it could not be had to-day, probably, for less than \$60,000.

When the Galena Railroad was started, Mr. R. was fully ready to enter into it, with all the means and influence he could command. As one of its first Board of Directors he pledged almost his entire capital, in connection with other Directors, for the purchase of the first iron to build its track, and in connection with John B. Turner, Esq., then acting Director, afterwards President, negotiated the sale of the first issue of bonds of the Road in eastern cities, which, at that day (1848), was not an easy matter, while Wall street was well supplied with Illinois State Bonds, interest unpaid. The first sales were only made to confidential friends, who relied upon their representations, as capitalists generally had no confidence in any western enterprise.

In consequence of the success of that enterprise, and its beneficial effects upon the country and city, he entered upon active efforts to build the road known as the Fox River Valley Railroad, now called Elgin and State Line Branch of the North-Western. The construction of this road was somewhat delayed, owing to the great number of such enterprises on foot at once, and the failure of some of the more unimportant ones, but it is now finished, and in operation from Elgin to Geneva Lake.

Mr. Raymond, though in comfortable circumstances, is not one of the wealthy men of the city; for he has never worshipped the "Golden Calf." His aim has never been to make the most money. Hence, he has commonly sold out any considerable tracts of real estate in his hands, and used the money to advance objects of public use and benefit. He also gives largely and freely. Perhaps no man in our midst more fully realizes the pleasure of a deed of benevolence which costs something, than he. No man of his long residence and various experiences with all sorts of men in public and private life, has fewer

enemies, or more fully commands the public confidence. The trust in his entire integrity of character is full and universal. He has only to believe a thing right to be induced to act accordingly, without question or delay. He is a man of about five feet ten inches in height, with light hair and a blonde complexion. His words are few, in low tones, and his demeanor quiet; the aspect is that of amiability and harmony of character.

He was a Director of the old Hydraulic company, (which first supplied water to the city,) from its beginning to its close; is now a Director in the Gas & Coke Co., and was for many years a Director of the pioneer railroad of the west, the Galena & Chicago Union Rail Road.

He, as President, obtained the Charter for the Old Ladies' Home, of Chicago, and has been connected with the Board of Trustees, as President or Treasurer, since its organization; and Treasurer of the Old People's Home.

He was one of the originators of the City of Lake Forest; obtained the Charter for the Lake Forest University, and was President of the Board of Trustees, for the first twelve years; and still a member of the Board of Trustees; also, a member of the Board of Trustees of Beloit College; and Rockford Female Seminary. In 1864, he, as President, with the aid of a few friends, organized and obtained the Charter for the Elgin National Watch Company, and procured subscriptions to the Stock; he is still connected with the Company as a Director: having resigned the Presidency in favor of a younger and more active man—T. M. Avery, Esq.

Elgin is most indebted to Mr. Raymond for its early and later prominence. He made large investments there; and furnished the material for many of the most important enterprises. His contributions for the establishment of their Academy were liberal; he was one of the first, and for many years, their leading merchant, having placed there, in 1838, the largest stock of goods west of Chicago. He was a partner in the foundry of Adams & Co., the first manufacturers of corn-shellers in the West; he was chiefly instrumental in the establishment of the woolen factory built by S. N. Dexter, Esq., in 1842—the first woolen factory in the State of Illinois; he assisted in the erection of a large tannery; and, lastly, and of greater importance than all the rest, as President of the National Watch Company.

Mr. R.'s political views are Republican; but he regards strict moral character, integrity, and capability above party consideration.

Mr. R. is a consistent member of the second Presbyterian Church, and has held the office of Ruling Elder in it since its organization in 1842.

His health is pretty uniformly good, and the hope of his friends is to see him useful a long while yet.

HON. J. YOUNG SCAMMON.

[From the Chicago Magazine, March, 1857.]

The subject of this sketch was born in Whitfield, Lincoln Co., Maine, in the year 1812. His father was the Hon. Eliakim Scammon, of East Pittston, Kennebec Co., Maine, a man widely known and universally esteemed, and who, for many successive years, represented his town and county in both branches of the Legislature of that State.

Mr. Scammon's mother was the daughter of David Young, one of the first settlers, and most wealthy men in East Pittston. Mr. Young was a prominent man in the community in which he lived. As a Jeffersonian Republican, he often represented his town in the General Court of Massachusetts, Maine having formed a part of Massachusetts until the year 1820, when it was admitted into the Union as a separate State.

Mr. Scammon, from childhood, has had a fondness for agricultural and horticultural pursuits. He would have been a farmer, were it not that an accident deprived him, at the age of 10 years, of the full use of his left hand. Though this probably changed his occupation in life, it did not diminish his natural love for the cultivation of the soil, or destroy his taste for the beautiful and perfect, in all that relates to this truly noble occupation. When he resided at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Randolph Street, he had the finest garden to be seen in the city, at that time; and he now preserves his beautiful garden.

Mr. Scammon received his literary education at the Maine Wesleyan Seminary, Lincoln Academy, and Waterville College. He read law in Hallowell, in his native State; he was admitted to the bar in Kennebec Co., and immediately after started upon a tour of the States. He arrived at Chicago, in September, 1835, upon a cold and stormy day. He made the then somewhat more than unpleasant and hazardous passage of the lakes, in the old steamboat, Pennsylvania, which at that early period made a trip from Buffalo, by the way of Green Bay, to Chicago. On the passage of the steamboat from Green Bay to this city, a furious storm arose, compelling her to put into Washington Harbor, near Death's Door, at the north end of Lake Michigan. Here she lay until the storm abated; provisions running out, and the passengers being put on a short allowance, in the meantime. Taking a fresh start from Washington Harbor, the storm again

raged fearfully, and there was great apprehension of shipwreck among the passengers and crew.

Arrived at Chicago, the steamer was compelled to anchor outside the bar, there being no entrance to the harbor, except for vessels of a very small size. The passengers were landed in a boat, and made their way from the beach up to the old Sauganash Hotel, in a driving rain, through the tall prairie grass and deep mud. They found the hotel crowded, and a very large number of the inmates sick with the bilious fever. In fact, altogether, a more dismal and dreary aspect the town could not have presented. Coming from the beautiful hills of New England, and their bracing and healthy air, the town appeared to the new comer to be almost a dismal swamp; and his first impression was anything but favorable to a location in it.

Mr. Scammon had letters to Mr. Henry Moore, who was then an attorney in the town, and deputy of Col. Richard J. Hamilton, Clerk of the Courts of the County of Cook. In a few days, the weather cleared off, and almost as soon the mud disappeared and there succeeded one of those beautiful Indian summers with which the West is so highly favored. Just as Mr. S. was about to leave town, to continue his journey southward, Mr. Moore called upon him, and stated that the Circuit Court had just commenced its session; that his own business prevented his giving further assistance to Col. Hamilton, and that the gentleman that Col. Hamilton had employed in his place had been attacked with fever. He asked Mr. S. if he would not assist Col. H. during the term of Court. This was regarded by Mr. S. as a fine opportunity to become acquainted with the mode of practice and the forms of legal proceedings in Illinois, and was at once accepted. He accordingly assisted Col. H. through the term; who finding that he was ready and at home in the performance of the duties of Clerk, proposed to make him his deputy, and, at the same time, allow him to "hang out his shine" in the Clerk's office.

In those days, rooms for offices were not plenty in Chicago, and the lawyers, being mostly bachelors, lodged in their offices. Mr. S. had endeavored in vain to find an eligible office, so he accepted Col. H.'s proposal, and established his office in the "North-east Corner" of the Clerk's office, from which it was separated, not as often in early times in the West, were the places of the Bar, the Court, and Jury, by chalk or coal lines, but by an imaginary one.

Col. H. then held about every office in Cook County which he could legally hold. He was Judge of Probate, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Clerk of the County Commissioners' Court, School Commissioner, Recorder of Deeds, Notary Public, and Bank Commissioner. All these were held in a small Grecian building, erected on the north-east corner of the Court House Square,

which was subsequently lengthened, and transformed into a Court House.

Mr. S.'s days were spent in this room, in the study of his profession and attending to the duties of clerk for Col. H. At night, he lodged like other young men, in the same office. As he made acquaintances his business increased, and in 1836, he entered into a copartnership with Buckner S. Morris. They continued together for eighteen months, and did a large and successful business. They then dissolved, and Mr. Scammon practiced alone for a year or more, when he formed a connection with Norman B. Judd, the partnership lasting until 1847, when Mr. Scammon becoming greatly interested in the building of the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad, and wishing to give much of his time to railroad matters, he and Mr. Judd dissolved their connection, though they continued to occupy the same office.

When Mr. Scammon came to Chicago, it was a time of almost universal speculation. Nearly every one was rich; at least in prospect. He was solicited to speculate, but declined, on the ground that he liked his profession, and should be happier in practicing it than in attempting to make a fortune by speculating. He thus was enabled to devote his time faithfully and unremittingly to the practice of his profession. His industry and promptness in paying over to his clients all monies collected—somewhat of a virtue in the early days of Western life—won him the favor of the community, both at home and abroad, and his practice soon became large and commanding. This favor, obtained by faithfulness and probity in the discharge of his business transactions, in the outset of his professional career, has been of great benefit to him in after life, and, no doubt, to it, to a very great extent, he owes the credit which he now enjoys in Chicago, as well as the Eastern cities.

Indeed, Mr. Scammon has made it a leading principle, in all his business transactions, to promise nothing that he could not perform, and to work with the greatest possible zeal and ardor to secure the completion of that which he promised. His credit as a banker he regards as above every other consideration, both of profit and present standing; and he would sacrifice all he possesses to preserve that untarnished. The business public are aware of this, and hence put great confidence in any monied institution with which he is connected.

Mr. Scammon has made great efforts to obtain a safe and reliable banking law in this State, which would be the means of preventing a recourse to the system of what is called "Wild Cat Banking," by which a number of irresponsible institutions are got up in neighboring States and Territories, for the purpose of circulating their irresponsible and irredeemable paper here. The law, as it heretofore stood, restrained and restricted the home banker, while it gave free license to the foreign institu-

tions, which are responsible to no one, and which, at best, depend wholly upon the ability, or rather inclination, of the owners to redeem their promises. Mr. S. has endeavored to make our banking system of that character which would invite the capital of the best business men of this and other States for investment, at the same time that it would possess such guards and restrictions as would secure the public in the most perfect manner. Mr. S. has worked long and faithfully to this end, and hopes finally to be able to accomplish an object which has been one of the leading purposes of his life. The feeling against banking of all kinds which exists in some portions of the State, and which has been taken advantage of by the advocates of irresponsible banking in the northern part, has hitherto been the great obstacle with which Mr. S. has had to contend; but he hopes, in time, and by the aid of the growing intelligence and good sense of the people, to succeed in perfecting such a system of banking as will be a credit to the State, and of the utmost advantage to its inhabitants.

In 1837, without solicitation on his part, Mr. Scammon was selected as the Attorney of the State Bank of Illinois; and in 1839, he was appointed Reporter of the Supreme Court of the State, which office he continued to hold till 1845, when he resigned, on account of the press of his business at home. He was the first Reporter in this State that ever published a volume, and his books introduced an entirely new era in Western Reports. They were brought out in a style inferior to none, and superior to most of the reports in the Eastern States.

The writer might here probably state, that Mr. Scammon has ever taken a lively interest in public affairs. While being indefatigably occupied with the management of his private business, he has not allowed himself to be wholly engrossed in the labors necessarily incident to men of large and accumulative means, but has been, in one way or another, connected with most of the great leading undertakings associated with the progress of our state and city. He has, in fact, been among the foremost in contributing to the development of the resources of Illinois, and the advancement of the interests of Chicago and the surrounding country. A New Churchman or Swedenborgian in religion, which includes all great measures of useful and beneficent progress he is himself progressive in sentiment, and conservative in practice. His motto is, and always has been, at least as long as the writer of this has known him, "Conservative Progress." Still into whatever undertaking he enters, he throws himself with his whole soul, and with all his might; and whenever he undertakes a project, he is indefatigable and preserving, until it is accomplished.

To the Hon. William B. Ogden and Mr. Scammon are the public specially indebted for the commencement of the Galena & Chicago Railroad. After the railroad enterprises which had

their inception in 1837, had failed, and were abandoned, and all confidence in Illinois was lost by capitalists, when hope was nearly dead in the minds of our people; Messrs. Ogden and Scammon counselled together upon the subject of railroads, and the Galena Railroad in particular. To induce the Michigan Central Railroad, which then hardly reached New Buffalo, to come to Chicago, and thus aid in extending railroad lines farther West, Messrs. O. and S. went to Indiana, and spent much time in getting hold of and reviving the charter of the Buffalo and Mississippi Railroad, which possessed the sole power of building a road from Michigan City to Illinois State Line, in the direction of Chicago. They had previously, on the opening of books for the road, traveled over the entire distance between Chicago and Galena, holding meetings, making speeches, and procuring subscriptions to the stock of the Galena Road. They were themselves among the largest stockholders in the Company, and by their exertions and personal pledges of fidelity to the interests of the stockholders, they obtained stock enough to commence operations in the road; and it is not claiming too much to say, that but for them this great pioneer road in the West would not have been commenced till many years later.

In the commencement of the building of this road, Mr. Scammon devoted a large portion of his time, gratuitously, to the project. He familiarized himself with the details of the transactions of the Company, and kept a strict watch upon its operations. Besides, to sustain the credit of the Company, he borrowed money more than once upon his individual name, and loaned it to the Treasurer, when the road had not sufficient credit to obtain an additional accommodation from its banker; nor even the confidence of a majority of its Directors, in their ability to go on with their enterprise. But the faith of the subject of our sketch was full and unwavering. Indeed, so great were the difficulties, and so numerous the disappointments in the outset of the operations of this Company, to which Chicago is indebted for so much of its material prosperity, that at one time, during the absence of Mr. Ogden, all the Directors, with the exception of Mr. Scammon, the late James H. Collins, Esq., and Charles Walker, Esq., appeared discouraged at the prospect of affairs.

The labors and difficulties attending the early days of the history of this enterprise can hardly be realized at the present time. The country was poor; there was no surplus money in it; subscriptions to the stock of the Company could only be obtained in very small quantities; of eighteen hundred shareholders, the larger number held single, or not more than two or three shares each; while all the shares which were taken were subscribed for, not with a view to profit on the stock, but solely to aid in the enterprise. Mr. S. was one of the largest stock-

holders from the commencement of the undertaking, and when great efforts were requisite to keep up the credit of the Company, and to prevent its stock from greatly depreciating, he purchased freely of it, and was, by this means, at one time its largest stockholder. With a view, also, of procuring Eastern aid, he proceeded in company with Mr. Ogden, to Boston, and had an interview with Eastern capitalists. There was at that period so little confidence in the West or Western enterprises, that they were very coolly told by one of the largest railroad proprietors in New England, that "Statistics amount to very little in influencing us. You must go home, raise what money you can, and when you can get no farther, come to us, and give us what you have done, and we will take hold of your road and complete it. You can afford to do this, the road will be of such immense advantage to your country." Mr. S. determined, upon the instant, that these prophetic wishes should not be fulfilled. He returned home, and by his exertions and caution contributed not a little to that careful management of the road, which ultimately in the success of the enterprise, and in establishing, in the minds of capitalist everywhere, the ability of Illinois men to build and manage railroads.

The success of the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad is the parent of all subsequent railroad movements in this State. Had that enterprise failed, Chicago would not now count half its present population.

In the very momentous matter, to the present and succeeding generations, of establishing the free school system of Illinois, Mr. Scammon bore a very prominent and important part. There was no provision for absolutely free schools in Illinois when Mr. Scammon removed to the State, and for years thereafter. It required a great struggle to get through the Legislature a special law for Chicago, authorizing the establishment of schools by the Town; and the law was only passed on condition that it would be submitted to a vote of the people, before it became operative. When the vote was taken in 1836, the law was voted down. Its defeat at that time was probably caused by the large number of unmarried men, the greater part of whom were speculators in real estate, who were unwilling to have their property taxed for, as they alleged, the benefit of other people's children.

Mr. Scammon took an active part in getting up the first charter of the City of Chicago. It was partly through his efforts that provision for our present free school system was made in it. The schools first established under it were not, however, sustained by public opinion. There were few children in the town, most of its population being young people, and little interest was felt in the subject. The schools had thus but a sickly existence, and were of very little value.

Mr. Scammon was appointed one of the Board of School

Inspectors in 1839. The free schools were then so nearly extinct, that it was determined to suspend them, until they could be re-commenced under more favorable auspices, and upon a more stable foundation. Mr. S. took hold of the subject in earnest. He drafted new Ordinances and Laws for the regulation and government of the school system, which were passed; and through him and his co-laborers in the Board of School Inspectors, the system of Common Schools, which has been so successful, and of such incalculable benefit to our City, was established on a broad and permanent basis. He remained in the Board of School Inspectors till 1845, when he was elected an Alderman for the First Ward. His election to this office was opposed by some citizens, who feared he was in favor of too extensive a system in public schools. The first school-house—the brick edifice Nos. 81—7 Madison street, east of Dearborn street—had been built under the direction of the Board of School Inspectors, in 1844. Much complaint had been made by residents of the North and West Divisions of the City, at the large expenditure; very many persons residing in the South Division, also denounced the cost of the construction of such a building as extravagant. Mr. S. determined to secure as large a vote as possible, in order to satisfy the public that “big school-houses” were not unpopular. The consequence was, he received more votes, and was elected by a larger majority, than any Alderman, up to that time, had ever received in the City.

When the new Council was inaugurated, the Mayor recommended that the “big school-house” should be sold, or converted into an “Insane Asylum,” and one more suitable to the size and wants of the City be built. It was supposed by the Mayor, that so large a school-house would not be required by the City for a dozen years. Mr. S. was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Schools, in the new Council, and immediately brought forward an ordinance for building a large brick school-house on the North side of the river, stating, at the same time, that it was the policy of the Board of School Inspectors to build another, on the West Side, the next year, and to build a new school-house at least every year. The order was adopted by the Council, and the school-house was built. The construction of this house was followed by that of the fine school building on Madison street, on the West Side. Thus a policy was adopted, which has since been continued and improved upon by the successive Boards of School Inspectors, until our Common Schools have reached their present proud position and high state of usefulness.

In any mention of the Common Schools, however, the name of William Jones, Esq., should not be omitted. For years, in their days of trial, he was one of their most devoted and efficient friends. He seconded Mr. Scammon's efforts and labors with great energy and zeal.

Mr. Scammon has always taken a warm and decided interest in politics. He was a Whig during the existence of that party, and for many years chairman of its Congressional, County, and City Committees; and though often solicited, and more than once nominated for office, he was never a candidate before the people, except on two occasions—once when elected Alderman, and in 1848, when he was the Whig candidate for Congress in this District, which at that time was composed of seventeen counties, and overwhelmingly Democratic. Mr. S. received a very flattering vote, carrying the City of Chicago by a considerable majority, although his party in the city must have been in a minority of more than a thousand votes.

In politics Mr. Scammon also exhibited his progressive proclivities, having been always on the side of freedom and progress in his party. At the same time he was conservative in his action, preferring present good, when he could obtain it, to sacrificing everything to the abstract principles of right. For this reason, though his freesoil sentiments dated back before the great contest between Clay and Polk in 1844, he preferred voting for Mr. Clay, to throwing away his vote. In 1848, also, he advocated the election of General Taylor, knowing there was no probability of the election of a freesoil candidate, and doubting the sincerity of purpose of Mr. Van Buren, who was supported by that party. In 1852, he voted for General Scott, although he preferred Judge McLean, who was his choice for President. In the late contest, he supported Colonel Fremont with all the ardor he was capable of, sparing neither his time nor money in the canvass. Mr. S. has always been inflexibly opposed to the extension of slavery into the territories, and he endeavored, in every way in his power, to divorce the Whig Party of this State from the Pro-Slavery measures with which a large number of its friends seemed willing to suffer it to be embarrassed. He contended that his policy in this respect was both just and expedient; and it is due to him to say, that if his advice had been carried out, the Whig Party in the Northern portion of the State, at least, and especially in this city, would not have remained so long in the hopeless minority in which he found it when he came to reside here. Many who afterwards claimed to be Seward, or freesoil Whigs, had previously to their sudden conversion—subsequently to the election of Gen. Taylor—opposed, with all their strength, the positions which Mr. S. took, and which had they been accepted and carried out by the leaders of the party generally, would have placed the Whig Party in a far better position before the people than it had ever attained.

Mr. Scammon was also among the first to perceive the tendency to the breaking up of old party lines in the country generally, and particularly in this City and State, preparatory to the present fusion of all persons and parties opposed to the spread

of slavery. He suggested and procured the writer, many years ago, to furnish a series of articles on the subject, to a neutral paper then published in this city. These articles, and also other measures taken by him, had no small influence in breaking up party lines in the Chicago City Elections, and in the Northern counties of the State. Although a strict party man himself, as long as he could see any great good which the old Whig Party was capable of performing; still he believed in voting for the best men, and in many instances refused to vote for unworthy or incapable nominees of his own party. It may be proper to state in this connection, that Mr. S. from first to last, has always opposed Native Americanism or Know Nothingism, in all its forms and principles. The writer well remembers the indignation of Mr. S. at an article which appeared in a paper in 1844, of which he was one of the editors. He had a portion of the edition of the paper which contained it suppressed immediately; the article gave great offense, however, as it appeared in part of the edition, and was made a great handle of by the Democrats at that time to the injury of the Whigs. Mr. S.'s principles of civil and religious polity are of too broad and comprehensive a character to accept for a moment the narrow and bigoted platform of that party, which of late has had, for a short time, such a prominent position in our National and State politics.

Mr. Scammon, in 1849, re-organized the Chicago Marine and Fire Insurance Company, an institution which had been chartered in 1836, as a monied corporation, but which had suspended business, although it never had suspended payment. He was one of the chief stockholders under the new organization, and the President of the Company. It commenced with a nominal capital of about \$35,000, and an actual cash capital of not exceeding \$25,000. Under his auspices, as President, the institution has gradually increased its capital, and extended its business, until it has now an actual cash-capital of half a million of dollars, and is the largest monied institution in the State.

Mr. Scammon likes to be a pioneer, judging from his past life. He was the first Swedenborgian in Northern Illinois; the first homœopath; and was among the first and most efficient organizers and supporters of the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad. He also established the first bank under the General Banking Law of this State—the Marine Bank of Chicago. He organized the Chicago Society of the New Jerusalem, when it had only three members, one other beside himself and wife. He also organized, in connection with three other gentlemen, the Illinois Association of the same Church, when there were probably not over a dozen Swedenborgians in the whole State.

Mr. Scammon possesses excellent business tact and management, which is evinced not only in his own prosperity, in the

accumulation and investment of a large private fortune, but in the success of the many enterprises in which he was one of the pioneers. He was one of the original stockholders of the Galena; Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy, and several other railroads. Though never a speculator, Mr. S. has become wealthy by judicious and prudent business habits. He is at the present time owner of large and productive real estate in the very centre of the business part of our city. His policy has been not to speculate, by running in debt, but to invest his surplus earnings, and thus reap the advantage of the steady rise of property by the growth of the city. To this policy, together with his industry and economy, he owes his present prosperous position, financially speaking. Mr. S. is a great advocate for the singleness of employments, nevertheless, his practice does not conform to his theory in this respect, as he is banker, lawyer, real estate owner, and has a large interest in railroads himself. It has been asserted by some—perhaps those too envious of another's prosperity—that accommodations from the old Illinois State Bank contributed to Mr. S.'s wealth. This is a mistake; he never borrowed a dollar from the bank, or had any accommodations from it, or purchased a foot of land, or other property belonging to it, except at public sale, in competition with others. The only favor the bank ever did him was to select him as its attorney. He had no other connection with it.

In his profession Mr. Scammon has stood deservedly high, and at one time had the most lucrative practice of any lawyer in the city. In fact, he has generally had more business than he could attend to, and of late years, his banking and other matters have demanded so much of his attention, that he has for the last two or three years given little time to his profession. In 1849, he took Mr. Ezra B. McCagg, who had been his confidential law clerk, for two years previously, into partnership, and they have since practiced together. He has always been a friend to young men, and has had a very large number of students in his office. These it has ever been his habit to accustom to the details of practice, thus grounding them well in the most important particulars in the profession. Thus he has been successful, in almost every instance, in making good, practical lawyers of his students. The advantages of the thorough training received by students in the office of Mr. S., is fully indicated by the fact, that of all the young men who have been under his supervision, not more than two have failed to turn out well.

Mr. Scammon, like all men of positive principles, is decided in his opinions, still he is liberal and kind to those who disagree with him. Indeed, a majority of the young men in his office, who have received his assistance, countenance, and support, have been, in political opinions, opposite to himself.

Though Mr. S. has devoted himself for many years so ardu-

ously to the law, and also been deeply immersed in business, he has not forgotten his early love for literature and fine arts. He continues still to cultivate it. He writes on political and religious subjects, gives public lectures, etc. In conversation he is entertaining, his information being general and varied, and his desire to impart it, a natural attribute of the man. He reads and speaks several modern languages with fluency, and continues his early study of the classics, to which he has always been drawn by his taste for ancient literature.

Mr. S. is blessed with the companionship of a congenial partner, a lady every way qualified to contribute to his happiness, and an interesting family of children, the oldest grown to a fine-looking young man, who is receiving the benefit of as good an education as his father's means and position can afford.

Mr. S. still continues to work as heretofore, though less in his profession. To the question "Why do you not give up business?" he replied, "I have no right to do so. Use is the central principle of Heaven, and no one can be happy, except in the degree in which he is occupied in some useful employment."

The foregoing sketch of Mr. Scammon's life was printed in 1857, in which year he went to Europe with his family, where his wife died, and her remains were interred at Soden, in Nassau, about ten miles from Frankfort on the Main.

When he returned in 1860, the first intelligence that reached him after his arrival at his home, was that the entire capital of the Chicago Marine and Fire Insurance Company had been squandered by its responsible officers, during his absence.

He at once resumed its management, and endeavored to arrest still further disasters; but just then the Rebellion broke out, and the Southern Stocks, upon which the circulation of the Illinois banks was based, becoming nearly worthless, the whole banking system of the State went down. Mr. Scammon worked away resolutely, dealing equally and fairly by all his customers, and in a short time had paid off the indebtedness of the institution, which had been thus robbed and ruined. He restored capital and credit to the company, and under his management his institution continued to enjoy the public confidence, and to transact a large business, until the losses of the great fire and the panic of 1873 rendered it expedient to wind them up. He was always opposed to illegal and depreciated currency of the "wild-cat" order. The acts of the Legislature, which drove illegal currency from the State were written by him, and passed

through his exertions. As a member of the Legislature of 1861, he obtained further stringent legislation on the subject of banking. At the time of the great fire he occupied an enviable position. He had won celebrity as a lawyer, and unlimited credit in business as a banker, and had become possessed of a vast fortune. But the terrible fire swept away his banks, warehouses, stores, and residence; fully half a million dollar's worth of property. In less than a week he had improvised a building on the site of his late residence and resumed his banking business. He was confident the city would be rebuilt, and the old landmarks restored. In fifteen months from the time of the fire, he had expended over a million dollars in rebuilding stores, warehouses, etc. He not only shouldered this enormous work, but he also assisted others to a large extent in their efforts to rebuild. Just in the midst of these gigantic undertakings occurred the defection of the *Chicago Tribune* from the cause of the Republican party, leaving that party without a representative morning paper in the city. Through all his eventful professional and business career he had never failed to take a deep and active interest in national politics, and had aided materially in establishing both of the Republican newspapers in Chicago. In view of this defection, and the approaching Presidential campaign, he decided to found a first-class metropolitan newspaper, that should be a powerful representative and advocate of the principles of the Republican party. He accordingly constructed a building in the rear of his residence, put in the necessary fixtures, engaged his editorial corps, and on March 25th, 1872, issued the first number of the *Inter Ocean*. This paper proved a success, and now has a larger weekly circulation than any other political paper west of the Alleghanies. The paper, outgrowing its limited accommodations, was removed to its present commodious quarters, 117 Lake St. But this enterprise brought upon him the most malignant and slanderous attacks from a rival press, which were followed up with such persistence and ferocity, as to injure both his individual credit, and that of the moneyed institutions with which he was connected. It remains to be said that, after the splendid success of a lifetime, Mr. Scammon has become seriously involved, in consequence of his great losses by fires, his immense expendi-

ture in rebuilding, and the loans and assistance he rendered others who were rebuilding. He has suffered from four considerable conflagrations within the last four years; and, what is remarkable, his fine residence and surrounding buildings have been twice swept away; first in the great fire of 1871, and again in the great fire of July, 1874, and in both instances his premises were the last ones burned, while adjoining buildings, that were not so well protected, escaped unharmed.

He is now quietly engaged in the settlement of his affairs, and in the practice of his profession as a lawyer in Chicago. Many of the public institutions of the city owe their origin to him. He was one of the founders of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, and of the Chicago Astronomical Society. He was the first of the Swedenborgian or New Churchman in Chicago, and one of the original founders of the Illinois Association of that Church. He organized the Church of the New Jerusalem in Chicago. He was the first layman of prominence to favor the practice of homœopathy in Chicago, and built and conveyed free to the Hahnemann Homœopathic Society a commodious hospital. The Dearborn Tower of the edifice of the Chicago University, in which is placed one of the largest refracting telescopes in the world, was built at his expense, and the salary of its director paid by him till the great fire of 1871. On his return from Europe in 1860, he was elected one of the trustees of the University, and has been for many years Vice-President of its Board of Trustees, and the acting President of the same.

As a lawyer, banker, and editor, he has achieved distinguished success, and is a man of large literary and general culture. His private character has been one of moral and religious worth. Mr. Scammon is an industrious, energetic man, of robust constitution, and vigorously employing the powers which have in times past reaped wealth for him; and there is still prospect before him of years of honor, usefulness, and fortune. He bears on his shield the words *Confide in Domino*.

CHARLES WALKER, ESQ.

[From the Chicago Magazine, March, 1857.]

The subject of this sketch is a descendent of an old and wealthy English family of some note, who, in Cromwell's time, were portioned upon the Tweeds and called by the significant name of *Borderers*; members of which were among the earliest adventurers to this country, for we find mention made of his more immediate ancestors, as settlers in the Eastern part of New England, as early as 1640.

Col. William W. Walker, the father of Charles, was a native of Massachusetts. His father, who was a noted cattle dealer, at an early day moved his family to Ringe, New Hampshire, from which place Col. Walker emigrated at the age of 21, having little or no capital, save his trusty axe and that hardy education, which ever characterized the early sons of New England. Admiring the country of Central New York, he located in Plainfield, Otsego County, then but a wilderness. Here he became acquainted with a Miss Lucretia Ferrell, also a native of Massachusetts, whom he subsequently married, and with whom he lived upwards of fifty-five years. Though an Octogenarian, Col. Walker is still in the full enjoyment of all his faculties, having in his life-time filled many important political stations, been prominent and active in the church, ready to lend a helping hand to all worthy benevolent objects, and at the same time secured to himself a competence and the universal respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Charles is the oldest son of William W. and Lucretia Walker, and was born February 2, 1802. The country being new, as we have before stated, his educational advantages were necessarily very limited. To a new log school-house, which a few enterprising farmers had built, the young lad was sent, at the early age of six years, to gain those elementary lessons, which have been turned to such practical account through a long life of usefulness. Inheriting a vigorous constitution, and withal an active and inquiring mind, together with uncommon diligence, he not only performed an unusual amount of manual labor upon his father's farm, but made most rapid progress in his studies. Improving his advantages to the utmost during three months in the year, he studied with his teacher during the day, and with his parents during the long winter evenings. Though as a boy

among boys in these juvenile days, his vigor of mind and decision of purpose was such, that notwithstanding his limited advantages, we find he was qualified for, and entered upon, the duties of teacher at the early age of 15; and from that time forward continued in the same vocation during the winter months until he attained his majority, with uncommon success. He may well, we think, look back upon that era of his life, with peculiar pride and pleasure, as he now recognizes the names of many of his old pupils among the distinguished men, of the East and West. While thus engaged, then 18 years of age, he commenced the study of law, but soon found the sedentary habits of that profession not suited to his temperament, with the advice of his physicians he relinquished that idea and turned his attention to more active pursuits; we next hear of him riding through the country, during the summer months, making purchases of sheep and cattle for his father.

At twenty-one, his health being then much impaired, he resolved to enter the mercantile business, and to that end hired himself out to a friend as clerk for a short time, at the very moderate salary of eight dollars per month. It did not, however, require a long clerkship for him to become a complete master of that merchant's method of doing business, and in two months he had fully determined to start in business for himself the following spring.

In the spring of 1824, with \$1350 aggregate capital, compiled of \$350 of his own private funds, \$500 given him by his father, being in fact his own earnings, and \$500 loaned of a neighboring farmer, he started for the city of New York, with no letters of credit, reference, or recommendation; and the following May, opened his store upon the economical plan of doing his own work, and soon after made his first purchase of grain. The next spring, when he went East to make his purchases, he made his first appearance at the Bull's Head Cattle Yard, New York, where the Bowery Theatre now stands, with a fine drove of fat cattle. By close and judicious management business prospered till 1828. But shipping in the fall of that year a large amount of cheese, butter, and pork, to a southern market, the cheese became damaged at sea, and through the mismanagement of agents, and the misapplication of funds, nearly all the accumulated fruits of four years laborious toil were swept away.

But by attending personally to the sales in New York, and the purchases at home, business flourished till '32, when a sudden decline in the price of provisions occasioned another heavy loss. But from 1833 to '34, large operations in all the leading products, attended by a steady and gradual rise, brought to a successful termination all his business operations. In the spring of '33, being in New York, he accidentally became a purchaser from a cargo of raw hides from Buenos Ayres, which he was enabled to obtain upon favorable terms; but upon getting them

home, and finding they were somewhat injured and could not be turned into the New York market without serious loss, he hit upon the expedient of manufacturing them into boots and shoes, and disposing of them at the fall Indian payments at Chicago; in the furtherance of which plan, his brother, Mr. Almond Walker, was in due time sent on, who opened his assorted stock of guns, boots, shoes, and leather, at Fort Dearborn, in the autumn of 1834.

By this adventure his attention was turned toward the West, where he soon saw and appreciated her undeveloped resources; and early the ensuing spring—not twenty-one years ago—he was on his way to this city, with ready means, enlarged and liberal views, an extensive business experience and acquaintance, in the vigor of manhood, with a widespread and favorable reputation at the East, to unite his fortunes with the destinies, and contribute his energies to the development of the unknown resources of this then lake shore village. Among his first operations here was the buying of several lots of real estate, among which was the purchase of John S. Wright, Esq., the corner of Clark and South Water Streets, in connection with Capt. Bigelow, of Boston, and Jones, King & Co., of Chicago, for the sum of \$15,000, *cash*; which was considered by many at that time, a most visionary speculation. Some days subsequent to making this purchase, after reconnoitering in the country, he publicly avowed the then bold opinion that Chicago was destined to be the great city of the inland seas, and in test of his faith in this prediction, immediately set about making this city the principal point for his future operations. In May, '35, while on his way to Chicago, being detained at St. Josephs, there being no regular means of conveyance across the lake at that time, he made several purchases of hides from the flat boats and butchers' stalls for the Eastern market, to which were subsequently added purchases made in and about Chicago; this shipment, it is believed, is the first ever made from the State of Illinois to any point as far east as Utica or Albany.

The next year he established business in Chicago with the late E. B. Hurlburt, Esq., under the firm of "Walker & Co.," upon South Water street, for importing implements of husbandry and household utensils from the East, together with a store of general merchandise, taking in exchange the various products of the West. During this period he was much of the time riding through the country, on horseback, as far north as Green Bay, locating government lands at the Four Lakes (now Madison), Beloit, and other points on the Rock and Milwaukee Rivers.

The next year came the terrible financial revulsions of '37, when ruin and desolation swept the whole country, those who sat in the high places of wealth and affluence were drawn irresistably into the maelstrom of utter insolvency. Banks, like

business men, came down with a crash, and the depreciation of currency produced ruinous confusion in the mediums of exchange. But Mr. Walker was one of the very few men, extensively engaged in business, who stood up against the storm; though he had to bring to bear his best energies and most expert financial skill, for maturing liabilities pressed hard upon him, and his name was largely endorsed upon the paper of other men; had not his reputation in Eastern commercial circles been of the best character, he would certainly have been swamped with thousands of others. But he found, in this emergency, that the relation he thus held as an important commercial medium between the merchant and artisan of the East, and the pioneer husbandman of the West, of immeasurable advantage. The extensive and favorable business reputation he enjoyed among the leading men and Banks of the East, as well as the confidence of the dealers of the West, enabled him to greatly enlarge his operations. To prevent the necessity of purchasing Eastern drafts at ruinous rates, he adopted the plan of purchasing the products of the country with the depreciated currency of the West, and made his extensive shipments of products the medium of exchange through which to meet his Eastern liabilities. Thus he was enabled to prevent the entire stagnation of business at home, preserve his reputation abroad, and in a few years of almost unprecedented vigilance and activity, to entirely overcome all his embarrassments.

The next year his firm purchased a few bags of grain of the surrounding farmers, which were sent to his mills in Otsego County, New York; this shipment of wheat, we believe, was the first ever made from Chicago to so Eastern a market.

During this period, though making Chicago the principal theatre of his labors, he was yet a resident of the State of New York, dividing his time nearly equally between this city, his home in Otsego County; New York City, and traveling on business. In '39, the famous struggle between the old Safety Fund, and the so-called Red Dog, or free banking system, was at its height. As a Representative from his native county he was sent to the Legislature. Carrying with him the same comprehensive and far-seeing views as a legislator, that ever characterized him as a business man, he was instrumental, in no small degree, in carrying through, though opposed by the great preponderance of the money power of the State, that deservedly popular system of redemption and exchange, which has since that time been in effect.

Each succeeding year his business in Chicago continued to increase, so that in 1840, his shipments had so much enlarged, that in the purchase of hides and skins alone, he not only exhausted his supply of merchandise, but was obliged to bring money from the East. In 1842, he established a partnership with Cyrus Clark, Esq., of Utica, under the firm of Walker &

Clark, for receiving Western produce; to bring himself nearer the chief point of business, he resolved to close out his affairs in Otsego County, and in May, 1845, he removed his family to our city.

In 1847, came the great crisis in the grain trade which carried down the oldest and best houses in the Union. Though not escaping without some most terrible losses that would have intimidated ordinary men; with a courage undaunted by reverses—with a nerve and will, equal to the emergency, his craft was guided to a safe anchorage from the fearful breakers that engulfed his less fortunate competitors; and his firm continued to hold its position as the leading grain and produce house in the West.

In 1851, it was found that C. Walker & Son of Chicago, Walker & Kellog of Peoria, and Walker & Clark of Buffalo, were the largest purchasers of grain from the farmers, in the United States. So that the few bags of grain, which in 1839 were sent on their eastern journey and the few bushels of 1840, had, in 1851, grown to 1,500,000 bushels.

At this period a severe attack of that malignant disease, the cholera, destroyed his health and compelled him to leave the financial management of the business to his oldest son, who continued the same under the firm of C. Walker & Son and C. Walker & Sons, till 1855, when he retired from the business altogether, leaving it to his two sons and others, who continue the same under the firm of Walker, Bronson & Co., prosecuting the business with all the vigor of its founder, this firm have during the past year, handled over *five and a quarter millions* of bushels of grain, an amount, we think, which will bear comparison with that of any other establishment in our own country or in Europe. Mr. Walker retires, we understand, the oldest grain merchant in the Union, having steadily remained in one of the most hazardous speculations in the world over thirty-one years. Acting upon the principle that he who can so cheapen and make efficient the avenues of trade, as to bring the productions of the country so much nearer a market, that the farmer can receive but one penny more the bushel for his grain, brings millions to his country, he feels amply repaid for the great risks he has run; and whatever benefit may have accrued to himself, that he has rendered an ample equivalent to those whom he has served.

While thus engaged as a pioneer in his own peculiar business he has been none the less efficient in promoting works of public utility. Prominent in all those great schemes which do so much towards developing the resources of the country, he has ever been one of the foremost in opening up and turning to account those great thoroughfares which vein our broad prairies, and wind their deep channels through our hills and valleys, and which, with every throb of animated industry, quicken into life

new avenues of trade, turning their accumulated wealth to swell the commercial tide that has so strongly set to the heart of our western metropolis.

When the Galena Rail Road was recuscitated, in 1847, Mr. Walker was chosen one of its Directors. He entered into the project with all his heart. In its gloomiest days, his faith never faltered; his confidence in the ability of the country to build the road never failed. When it was found that more subscriptions were necessary, he, as one of a Committee for soliciting additional subscriptions, traversed the country westward, and as far north as Beloit. His courage never wavered. When, in its darkest days, at a meeting of the Board, all confidence seemed to have departed from a majority of the Directors, he, with two or three others, remained firm in his confidence that the work would go through without failure. "A Committee of the Believing" was appointed to take measures to prevent immediate disaster, composed of himself, J. Young Scammon, Esq, and one other. Their measures were successful; and when, on the return of its President, Mr. Ogden, from New York, it became necessary that the Directors should become individually liable for a large sum of money, to secure the iron to lay the first division of the Road; Mr. Walker did not hesitate to be among the first to do so; and to the credit of the Board be it said, that all the Chicago Directors, but one, pledged their individual liability for the progress of the work. Mr. Walker remained in the Directory from the first, and took an active part in the construction and management of the Road.

In Feb., 1856, the enterprise of pushing forward, across Iowa, the counterpart of the Galena Railroad, was projected; and the Chicago, Iowa, and Nebraska Railroad was organized, having its eastern termination at the young and growing town of Clinton, on the western bank of the Mississippi. Of this Company Mr. Walker was one of the main directors and its president.

During the summer of 1856, he, in connection with others, erected and put in operation, at Beloit, Wis., an excellent paper mill, and a large reaper manufactory; and from a very superior quality of clay, upon his farm in Morris, Ill., commenced the manufacture of "Green Mountain Ware," expecting, in time, to supply Chicago and the Northwest with a quality of stoneware equal to any in the United States. He also was largely engaged in farming in the interior.

The conviction, that he who does the most towards opening up the great channels of trade, so that the poor man's labor will gain a level with the rich man's capital, is a practical philanthropist, he was in theory and practice a thorough utilitarian. In private life, a plain man and thoroughly democratic; he recited the incidents of his boyhood and early struggles with a degree of well-earned satisfaction, and none more ready, in every consistant way, with kind words or material countenance

and aid, to cheer onward honest and persevering industry. From the first, a faithful and influential member of the church, and a most exemplary man, we think we do no injustice to any other citizen to say, that while we are frank to concede there are others who have added to themselves greater wealth, to none is Chicago more indebted for her unexampled prosperity than to the late Charles Walker.

In closing this brief notice of one so highly esteemed, we may fitly add the words of another: "In the internal improvements, which have done so much to develop the exhaustless resources of the State, in Railroad enterprises, which have poured a flood-tide of wealth and business into our commercial metropolis of the Northwest, in every public work, whose intention and effect was to build up and promote the healthful growth of the City, he has ever been in the foremost rank of public-spirited men. In short, taking into consideration the varied incidents of his active life, his indomitable perseverance and industry, and the financial ability he has exhibited, Mr. Charles Walker has had few equals and no superiors, as a skilful business man and a good citizen."

THOMAS CHURCH, ESQ.

By JAMES TAYLOR, PH. D.
Author of "Moral and Social Manners," etc.

INTRODUCTION.

There is a laudable craving in the human heart, to know the history of those who have become distinguished, whether such distinction is the result of personal merit, or of the peculiar circumstances by which they are surrounded. It has been said, that "some are born great, some have greatness thrust upon them;" but certain it is that, however favorable circumstances may be, it requires an inherent power to seize, at the right moment, the advantages which time and circumstances may offer the enterprising and watchful. The life of Thomas Church furnishes interesting material, in connection with the early settlement of Chicago, and is a very prominent example of what may be accomplished by a steady perseverance in an honorable course of industry, integrity, and self-reliance.

The name of Thomas Church will ever be remembered with respect and affection by those who knew him best, and were able to appreciate the many estimable qualities which so well fitted him to take an active part in the early settlement of Chicago, with the interests of which he was identified from the year 1834, to the time of his death, on the 25th day of June, 1871.

The honorable and exemplary life of Thomas Church well deserves a record, which will hand his name to posterity, and keep green the memory of his many virtues, his goodness of heart, and noble aspirations.

On the front page of the "Family Bible," as is customary in rural homes, the record of the Church family was kept, from which it appears, that Thomas Church was born, in the Town and County of Onondago, in the State of New York, on the 8th day of December, A. D. 1800. His father died while Thomas was in his infancy. His mother's maiden name was Olive Rawson, who had been bereft of her husband, and afterwards, by a second marriage, became the wife of Thomas Yates, a man of moderate means, but industrious, enterprising, and honorable. In the household of his step-father, young Church was brought up. Mr. Yates was the owner of a distillery, and the boy, Thomas, was employed in such matters as his strength would permit him

to perform. It was his business to carry, on horseback, the meal from the mill, and to assist in clearing a small farm, where they raised wheat for the family consumption. They had three cows, and a span of horses, with which, when the roads were passable, Mr. Yates used to do teaming, from Albany, for the neighboring merchants. The family were in good circumstances, compared with their neighbors. They were very temperate, for Thomas never new but of one pint of rum being sent for, and that was on account of sickness, except, on another occasion, when two quarts of whisky were purchased, when they had a 'logging bee.'

When Thomas was twelve years old, the father removed to the town of Benton, Ontario County. From this time he used to assist his mother, and, at times, went to school. He occasionally did little chores for the neighbors, for pay, and one day earned six and a-half cents, for gathering stones from a hay meadow. Small as were these earnings, he had a purse of his own, and was anxious to increase his store. When he was fourteen years of age, his parents removed to Bennington, Genesee County, on the border of civilization, and there he practiced a pioneer life, helping to clear, with his two younger brothers and his father, as much land as they were able. Here were spent five years, their home a log house, roofed with split-staves and bark, split and hewed logs for the floor, and stakes set in auger-holes, with a board on them for seats; a broad chimney, funnel-shaped, big end down, plastered within with clay and straw. The manufacture of maple sugar formed a part of their employment, and very much interrupted the attendance at school.

And now occurred one of those events which illustrate on what trifles our destinies depend. A disagreement between Thomas and his step-father took place, as to whether he should have the large or the small knife to cut basket wood. His father told him, that "unless you have everything your own way, you will not do anything." This charge was denied, and he was then told: "If he did not like to remain at home, he could leave." The young man replied: "If I thought you were in earnest, I would jump the bars as quick as you like." And upon this he let fall the axe, "jumped the bars," and left his home. That jump—from home into the world—was ever remembered as a mighty event.

And now, launched upon the world without knowing where to go—without money—without friends—with only the clothes he had on—no friends to aid or advise! His thoughts turned to those who were better off, who had the advantages of education, wealth, parents, kind friends that would help them. He envied those who had learned a profession or trade. He stood alone—without help—almost without hope! But he had health and youth, and as the first sadness wore away, hope revived, he felt stronger, and resolved that, with an honest purpose, and with the help of God, he would on himself rely; that he would take

no step backward, and he hurried on to seek employment. About three miles from his home, he engaged to tend a mason for two weeks, for which he was to receive twelve bushels of wheat and six York shillings in money. The man he had worked for was a miller. There came to the mill a brother of young Church, with a grist. Thomas told him that he had twelve bushels of wheat, for which he could get only thirty-seven and a-half cents a bushel, but he wanted to help pay the clearing, and if his father would send his bags, he could have the wheat.

The boy soon came back with the bags and got the wheat; but young Church was afraid his father might relent; but he did not. The wheat was gone, and he now had a capital of six York shillings. However, he agreed to work for the same man, Mr. Owen Cotton, for one year, at ten dollars a month, the payment to be made as follows: fifteen dollars in cash, fifteen dollars in orders on a dry-goods store; half the balance in horn cattle, and the other half in grain, at barter price, *viz.*, fifty cents a bushel, the market price being thirty-seven and a-half cents. In this situation he learned to run a linseed oil mill, a grist mill, and a saw mill; and, as Mr. Cotton was often from home, young Church acted as clerk, sold lumber, grain, and oil, and often went with produce to the neighboring towns and exchanged it for raw material. Thus he gained some knowledge of trade, improved his education, and saw a little of the world. He had now made the acquaintance of Miss Rachel Warriner, and this inspired his ambition. Times improved, money became more plenty, and he exchanged his cattle and grain with Mr. Cotton for a little farm. He worked another year, during which time he sold the farm for cash, and, at the end of his term, he again agreed to work for six months for the sum of sixty dollars.

At the expiration of the two and a-half years, he had \$227.00 in cash, and a new suit of clothes. Rachel waited, and, in 1823, they were married.

With new responsibilities, new plans were laid, and often thrown aside; but, ultimately, it was concluded to buy a small farm, and establish a home. With this view, Mr. Church went to Chatauque county, selected and bought a small piece of land, built a cabin on it, and then returned home on foot, by the way of Buffalo. There he was overtaken by a snow-storm, and detained one whole day. This delay was the cause of a radical change in all his plans.

Buffalo was then a village of 2500 inhabitants, and Mr. Church did not know any one. He had heard, however, of an acquaintance of his cousin, and this man he sought out. He found him keeping a little store, and as busy as a beaver, notwithstanding the bad weather. While sitting in the store, the idea occurred to him, Why cannot I do something of

this kind? And this thought occupied him during the remaining walk home of thirty miles. Of course, his wife was consulted. Her advice was—"Go to Buffalo—if your heart is set upon this enterprise, it will be successful." To Buffalo accordingly they went, in February, 1824, leased a spot of ground, and erected on it a small store and dwelling. When a stock of goods had been laid in, their money was exhausted, and customers were anxiously looked for. The first sale amounted to three cents. A one dollar bill was presented, and taken, and ninety-seven cents in silver given in exchange. Woful to relate—the bill proved to be on a broken bank! This mishap was a source of much self-reproach, that he should have taken a young wife to a strange place, locked up all his means in a business he knew nothing about; and here was a pretty beginning.—He did not tell his wife for some time. A bank note detector was now purchased, and soon matters began to mend. The venture proved successful. Trade increased; and the first year Mr. Church cleared \$200. This was probably one of the pleasantest years of his life. It was his first venture in business, and the first year of his married life. All things prospered with him; and he had good reason to look forward to a successful business career, and a happy domestic life.

They remained ten years, during that time the lot he had occupied had grown in value, from \$150 to \$4000. In fact, Buffalo had become a city, competition came in, and it was this suggested a removal further west.

In the spring of 1834, Mr. Church embarked with his effects on board of a small schooner, bound for Chicago. Ever since 1832, when Gen. Scott's army had returned from the Black Hawk war, reports had been circulating of the great fertility of the soil of Illinois, and of the advantages which Chicago would offer to the adventurous settler. Congress, too, had made an appropriation of land to the State for the purpose of constructing a canal from Chicago to the Illinois river.

Far-seeing men discerned in this great enterprise an unbroken chain of water communication between the Mississippi and the great lakes, a sure prognostic of the future development of Illinois, and a bright harbinger of the brilliant destiny in store for her. Mr. Church himself was not insensible to these great advantages, although he, in common with the early settlers of Chicago, had no idea of the rapidity of the future growth of the city. It was supposed, too, that Congress would soon make an appropriation for the improvement of the harbor at the mouth of the Chicago river.

The schooner on which Mr. Church had embarked, arrived at Chicago on the second day of June, 1834, and anchored about three-quarters of a mile outside of the mouth of the river. No vessel had as yet passed over the bar into the river. The passengers came ashore in boats, and landed their goods in the

same way. We may mention here, that the first vessel that entered the Chicago river was the schooner Illinois, Capt. Pickering. This adventurous officer succeeded in passing the bar in safety in the fall of 1834. It was considered, as indeed it was, quite a feat, and an epoch in the history of the State. That night a jubilee was held in the cabin of the schooner, at which plenty of champagne was drunk, toasts given, and speeches made.

There were about four hundred people in Chicago on Mr. Church's arrival, besides the garrison at Fort Dearborn, which embraced 200 U. S. troops. The business of the place was all done on Water street. Mr. Church endeavored to buy a lot there, but was unsuccessful. The land called canal lands was principally owned by the State. Individuals who owned lots would not sell them. Individuals claiming the canal lands by possession, designated their claim by having a stick of timber or an old stove on it, and asked \$500 or \$600 for their right of possession. But speculation in lands was not what Mr. Church came to Chicago for. He desired to get into business, and wished at least to own the property on which he lived. He succeeded, finally, in purchasing two lots, Nos. 111 and 113 Lake street, for \$250 each, and immediately erected a store and dwelling house on the property, 20 by 40 feet, and two stories high. There were few or no regularly traveled streets in Chicago at that time. The travel from the Fort to the branching of the river was along the river bank and on some ridges that crossed ravines leading to the stream. Mr. Church's store was the first one built in Chicago fronting on Lake street. Mr. J. K. Botsford had built a store on Dearborn street a little while before, the end of which reached to Lake street:—but at that time there were not enough houses built to give direction to Lake street. In building his house, Mr. C.'s greatest difficulty was to get assistance enough. After buying a raft of timber in the river, he had to get it sawed by hand into joists and rafters, in the same manner that ship-timber is sawed. The frame being prepared, a derrick was rigged, and the frame raised to its place by a pair of oxen. His weather boards were brought from the Wabash country, by what were called "prairie schooners;" wagons drawn by five or six yoke of oxen. This *land voyage* occupied several days, the *crew* taking their provisions with them, and camping out at night. After selling out their cargo and part of their oxen at Chicago, they would take on board a return load of salt, groceries, or dry goods, and 'set sail' for home again. A great deal of Mr. Church's early trading was done with the captains of these *prairie schooners*. They continued their trips till the march of civilization rendered them no longer necessary.

In the spring of 1835, Mr. Church went to Buffalo for a stock of goods. It took five days to get to Detroit by stage. Send-

ing his goods by lake, he returned by way of Detroit and Michigan City. There was no regular wagon road, and all vehicles ran along on the beach of the lake. It took two days to come from Michigan City to Chicago. There were fourteen passengers on this trip. A lady and two gentlemen rode on the top of a wagon loaded with baggage. The other eleven passengers walked on before. The lady was Mrs. JOHN S. C. HOGAN, wife of the then postmaster at Chicago. Her husband, and Mr. JOHN L. WILSON, afterwards Sheriff of Cook county, were also in the party.

On arriving home, Mr. Church found that his goods had got there before him. During his absence, James Whitlock, Esq., Register, and Col. E. D. Taylor, Receiver of the General Land Office, had been negotiating with his wife for the preparation of a building for the use of the office, and she had agreed with them that, on his return, Mr. Church would fit up and furnish two rooms, in the upper story of his store, for their purpose. He immediately hired the necessary assistance, and set about the fulfilment of the contract. The rooms were finished by the first day of June, 1835, and the land sales of that year immediately commenced. The attendance of buyers was very large and the bidding quite spirited. The purchasers stood out on Lake street in front of the land-office, and the constant tramping of such a crowd made the place very muddy. To obviate this, and to give the public a dry place to stand, Mr. Church caused a large quantity of gravel to be brought from the lake shore, and spread daily over the street. The receipts from the sales of land in two weeks were over half a million of dollars. Mr. Church's profits on the goods sold at the same time and for three weeks thereafter, five weeks in all, was \$800. The next spring, Mr. Church built an addition to his store, making it one hundred and eighty by twenty feet, and replenished it with a fresh stock of goods. In the year 1838, his retail sales for cash amounted to over \$41,000. That year, and the preceding, was a hard year with merchants generally. The great commercial smash up of 1837 had shaken the country to its remotest extremities, and even Chicago felt its disastrous effects.

There are some very interesting incidents connected with Mr. Church's early experience of merchandising in Chicago. In 1837, he purchased at one time seventy-five tons of goods, the freight on which, from New York to Buffalo alone, was \$1100. Late in the fall of 1837, sugar was very scarce here, and Mr. Church went to St. Louis, bought a large quantity, and had it re packed in barrels. This was necessary, as it had to be transported in wagons from Ottawa here, and the roads being none of the best, there was some danger that the teamsters might get stuck in the sloughs. In case this accident should happen, they could roll the barrels to *terra firma*. This lot of sugar cost eight and three-fourth cents per pound in St. Louis, and it sold

here at the rate of six pounds for a dollar. It was customary to buy everything by the dollar's worth. The smallest change in money was a half dime. Sixteen of these, or eight dimes, passed for a dollar.

It was about this time that a change took place in the business of Chicago. Instead of importing all articles of necessity, Chicago now began to export provisions. Chicago merchants, too, now began to give credit to dealers in the country, to buy their produce, to borrow money on warehouse receipts, and to appoint foreign agents to do their business for them. Mr. Church, however, did not engage in this branch of traffic, but added to his other importations, paints, glass, oils, iron, and domestic dry goods. In 1840, he moved his old store, and built a forty feet front, fire-proof brick building on Lake street, Nos. 111 and 113, and moved his goods into it, taking into partnership his best clerk, Mr. M. L. Satterlee, late of the firm of Satterlee, Cook & Co.

After a successful business of three years, Mr. Church bought out Mr. Satterlee, and this partnership was dissolved in 1843, when Mr. Church disposed of his interest in the store, and invested his means, which were now considerable, in the purchase of real estate. In his transactions in real estate, he was as fortunate as in his mercantile career. One of the predominant traits in his character, though not the ruling one, was caution. He was never disposed to embark in hazardous undertakings; but he has uniformly succeeded in whatever he has undertaken.

An estimate of Mr. Church's property, on retiring from merchandising, showed a clear value of \$37,000, and this was the result of twenty years' prudent enterprise, during which time he never was embarrassed to meet his engagement, and has always paid one hundred cents on the dollar, and never had a law suit which required the argument of an attorney.

Mr. Church now invested his means in real estate, having gained, by experience, a knowledge of the rapid rise in value; and so successful were his investments that, in the year 1856, his interest and rents amounted to \$10,000; and, in 1857, to double that amount. The property was estimated, January, 1857, at \$300,000, and his income \$22,554.50 per annum. The havoc of panics has rendered these estimates subject to great vicissitudes; but, like the receding wave of the flood-tide, the rise of the reflux exceeds the depression, and an advance is maintained.

The rise in the value of land in Chicago, commenced at an early day. In 1830 or 1831, twenty feet of ground on Lake st., west of, and adjoining No. 113, sold for \$7. In 1834, the same ground was sold for \$250. In 1836, it was sold for \$8000, it having then a building on it not worth over \$2000. It is now worth or \$1500 per foot, the snug little sum of \$30,000.

In June, 1836, the great Canal sale commenced, and a large

amount of canal lands were sold. The terms were, a quarter down, and the balance in one, two, and three years, with interest on the deferred payments at six per cent. in advance. That was all, however, that was ever paid, as a few years afterwards the State compromised with the purchasers, giving them one-half of the whole quantity of the land for the one-quarter of the price which they had paid. In 1838, the State offered their lands on twenty years time, ten per cent. of the purchase money down, and six per cent. interest for the balance. They took in payment, too, State Stock, which was then depreciated to such an extent that thirty dollars of it could be bought for ten dollars. Such an opportunity to invest money profitably in lands has never occurred since; but at that time nobody wanted to buy, for there was very little money in circulation. In 1839, at the Fort Dearborn sales, lots on Michigan avenue were purchased at a little over \$1 per front foot, lots of 48 feet front selling at \$51. The same lots are now worth forty thousand dollars. Since that date, land has been steadily increasing in value.

In the summer of 1834, the first Tremont House was built on the north-west corner of Lake and Dearborn streets. It was burned down in 1839, that being the first large fire that had ever happened in Chicago. Mr. Ira Couch immediately built the second Tremont House on the site of the present edifice, and kept it till it too, was burned down in 1849. In the fall of 1849, Mr. Couch erected another noble structure. It was called by the croakers at first "Couch's folly" in derision, some persons thinking it much too large for a place like Chicago. But immense as it is, it has been thronged with guests, and its popularity is increasing every year. In 1871, the Tremont House was again ravaged by the flames, and is again rebuilt in a style still more magnificent.

Mr. Church, notwithstanding his close attention to business, his active mind and benevolent disposition has always led him to the discharge of his duty as a citizen; active in the promotion of whatever would benefit the interests of Chicago, he felt a pride in its rapid progress. For eight or nine years, Mr. Church was city assessor of the south division, and also Commissioner for the opening of streets and alleys, for the partition of real estate, and in awarding widow's dower; for the planking and paving of streets, and for appraising the damages and benefits arising from the establishment of lines of wharfage and dockage on the river. In the entire course of his official conduct, requiring the making of maps of subdivisions of the city, and placing the abstract titles on record, we have not heard of a single mistake, or a single complaint of unfairness or partiality.

In 1849, Mr. Church was nominated for mayor of the City of Chicago, by the Whig party, but was defeated.

On the organization of the Fireman's Insurance Company, Mr. Church was elected president, and filled the office with great credit, commanding the respect and esteem of his brother directors. As a token of their respect, in 1863, they presented Mr. Church with a handsome gold watch; value, \$250. The character of Mr. Church is too well known to require eulogy, but the object of a biographical sketch is to hand down to posterity the record he has made with his cotemporaries.

In 1854, when the cholera raged in our midst with such alarming fatality—when the angel of death held high revel in our streets—when strong men and little children alike were stricken down on every side—when medical skill and the tenderest care were unavailing to stay the progress of the plague or to snatch its victims from its deadly grasp—when all business was paralyzed and when hundreds were fleeing from the pestilence, Mr. Church remained at home, discharged his usual duties, and ministered to the wants of the sick around him. He was not alone in this. Many others of our citizens, like him, devoted themselves to the noble work of alleviating the sufferings they could not prevent.

Successful in his pecuniary circumstances, Mr. Church was not less prosperous in his domestic relations. He was happy in his first marriage, in the possession of the choice of his heart's first affections; in whom he found a congenial help in his early struggles, and a companion in his early successes. To her was born five children, two of whom survive and are married to very estimable gentlemen now living in Chicago. In April, 1839, Mrs. Church died, which was the cause of great affliction to her husband and family. His two children were deprived of a mother's fostering care, and his happy home had become desolate. Hired help can not supply the place of parental affection, and, for a time, there was sorrow in that dwelling.

In the fall of the same year, at the sick-bed of a neighbor, Mr. Church accidentally met Mrs. Rebecca Pruyne; knowing that she had no other interest than a neighborly sympathy, he thought it a manifestation of a kind heart, and became favorably impressed. She was a lady of comely appearance, respectably connected, was the widow of the late Peter Pruyne. Mr. Pruyne was senator of this State, and Rebecca was daughter of S. W. Sherman, of this city. She had one child. Mr. Church had two children; it was a legal proportion, she was entitled to her thirds. This casual meeting ripened into an acquaintance, and, ultimately, into a mutual sympathy and attachment, and, in November, 1839, they were married. The alliance proved mutually satisfactory, and, as their pecuniary circumstances were ample for their moderate habits, they had only to seek happiness in the rational enjoyments suited to their tastes. Their quiet of home life, they diversified by travel; they visited the homes of their early youth, and gratified themselves in again

viewing the scenes with which their affections and memories were entwined. These travels were extended to many places of interest. Mr. Church was, in the meantime, carrying on his enterprises in real estate, building largely, and watching with great interest the progress of the city, until June, 1871, when, after a short illness, he died, regretted by a large circle of friends. Obituary notices were published in the daily press, and the directors of the Firemen's Insurance Company passed the following resolutions:

Resolved—That the news of the death, on Sunday evening, of our first and only president, Thomas Church, fills our hearts with sorrow, and is an event greatly to be deplored.

Resolved—That his death is not only a loss to this company, but to the community in which he has so long honorably and exemplarily lived.

Resolved—That we will, in a body, attend his funeral, and that we extend to his family our sympathies, and that these resolutions be spread upon the records of the company, of which he has so long been an honored and useful president.

Mr. Church was a large and fine looking man, of plain and unaffected manners, and modest and retiring in his deportment. We are not informed whether or not he was connected with any religious society, but from our personal knowledge of his character, we should pronounce him to be Christian at heart and in practice, whether he was so in name or not. He was one of our wealthiest citizens, but he was esteemed and respected far more for his estimable qualities, for his sound good sense, for his active usefulness, and for his quiet and unostentatious benevolence, than for the adventitious glare of mere wealth.

Although part of the present sketch was in type before it was submitted to the present editor, he has been permitted a sight of an autobiography of the late Thomas Church. It is replete with very interesting matter bearing upon the history of Chicago during nearly forty years of close observation. These observations will form invaluable material in preparing a history of Chicago, but are too lengthy to be even glanced at in this sketch we extract the following: "I feel very grateful and thank a divine Providence for the good and kind husbands that our daughters have. They are thrifty, industrious, and good providers for their families. The eldest, Geo. A. Ingalls, is a lawyer; the second, Ephram Ingals, is a doctor; the youngest, S. D. Kimbark, is an iron merchant. Neither of them use profane language, or tobacco, and are quite temperate. They all came home last Thanksgiving-day, each brought their eldest child, and I believe the arrangement is, that on next Thanksgiving-day, our extension-table is to be spread so as to admit three more little ones. I feel proud of our boys, and have reason to hope that they will continue in well-doing; remain good men, good husbands, and good fathers!"



FERGUS' CHICAGO PUBLICATIONS.

1.

ANNALS OF CHICAGO: a Lecture delivered before the Chicago Lyceum, Jan. 21, 1840. By JOSEPH N. BALESTIER, ESQ., Republished from the original edition of 1840, with an Introduction, written by the author in 1876; and, also, a Review of the Lecture, published in the Chicago Tribune in 1872. Price, 25 cents.

2.

FERGUS' DIRECTORY OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, 1839; with City and County Officers; Churches, Public Buildings, Hotels, etc.; also, list of Sheriffs of Cook County and Mayors of the City since their organization; together with Poll-List of the First City Election, (Tuesday, May 2d, 1837); and, also, List of Purchasers of Lots in Fort Dearborn Addition, the No. of the Lots and the Prices Paid. (1839). Compiled by ROBERT FERGUS. Price, 50 cents.

3.

THE LAST OF THE ILLINOIS, AND A SKETCH OF THE POTTAWATOMIES: Read before the Chicago Historical Society, December 13th, 1870; also,

ORIGIN OF THE PRAIRIES: Read before the Ottawa Academy of Natural Sciences, December 30th, 1869. By Hon. JOHN DEAN CATON, LL.D., late Chief-Justice of Illinois. Price, 25 cents.

4.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE EARLY MOVEMENT IN ILLINOIS FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF SLAVERY: Read at the Annual Meeting of the Chicago Historical Society, December 5, 1864. By Hon. WM. H. BROWN, Ex-President of the Society. Price, 25 cents.

5.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO. Part contains Sketches of Hon. S. Lisle Smith, C. Davis, Dr. Philip Maxwell, John J. Bro Richard L. Wilson, Col. Lewis C. Kercheval, Uriah P. Harris, Henry B. Clarke, and Sh Samuel J. Lowe. By WM. H. BUSHNELL. Price, 25 cents.

6.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO. Part contains Sketches of Wm. H. Brown, Esq., W. Raymond, Esq., J. V. Scammon, Esq., Chas. Walker, Esq., Thomas Church, Esq. Price, 25 cents.

7.

EARLY CHICAGO: A Lecture delivered in the Sunday Course, at McCormick Hall, May 7th, 1876. By Hon. JOHN WORTH. With portrait. Price, 35 cents.

8.

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